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Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-90-240
Thursday
13 December 1990

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FBIS-LAT-90-240 *13 December 1990*

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Weekly Roundup of Regional Drug Seizures

PY1312113290

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on drug seizures and arrests in the Paraguay Bureau coverage area from 24 November to 11 December. Source, date, and time are given in parentheses after each item.

Argentina

Salta, 9 Dec (TELAM)—During an operation carried out in northern Salta Province, police personnel of the Salta Province Dangerous Drugs Division seized nearly 4 kg of very pure cocaine and detained five individuals. Reliable sources have indicated that this "important quantity" of drugs was seized in the town of Pocitos and its final destination was Buenos Aires Province. (Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0137 GMT 10 Dec 90)

Brazil

Federal Police Commissioner Sidney Bras Lemos has said that the Federal Police are unable to stamp out the production of marijuana in Pernambuco State and that every year the production increases. Statistics go back to 1983 when the Federal Police began to directly combat marijuana plantations in Pernambuco. In 1983, 555,373 marijuana plants were burned; in 1984, 1,972,795 plants; in 1985, 232,691 plants; in 1986, 22,102,767 plants; in 1987, 25,752,594 plants; in 1988, 10,002,862 plants; and in 1989, 3,072,243 plants. This year, until October, the Federal Police burned 5,175,285 plants. Pernambuco marijuana is already being exported to the United States via Bolivia and to the states of Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Belo Horizonte, Curitiba, and Porto Alegre. The so-called "marijuana polygon," comprising 13 municipalities that are about 500 km from Recife, is being considered by the Federal Police as the largest Brazilian producer of marijuana. Salgueiro, Serrita, Floresta, Cabroco, Oroco, Belem do Sao Francisco, Serra Talhada, Sao Jose do Belmonte, Carnaiba, Calumbi, Betania, Mirandiba, and Verdejante cover about one third of the state's total area. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 25 Nov 90 p D 3)

Rio de Janeiro police have seized one ton of marijuana in the Nova Iguacu suburb. The drug was packaged in 60-kg bags labeled as fodder. The truck on which the drug was transported had Pernambuco State license plates.

Sao Paulo police have seized 100 kg of pure cocaine worth $7 million in the city of Santos. The drug was to have been sent to Spain through the port of Santos. Three people were arrested on drug trafficking charges. (Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 29 Nov 90)

In Parana State, the Federal Police have arrested a group of drug traffickers on a highway linking Curitiba with the northern part of the state. This is the largest cocaine cache ever seized in Parana State. The leader of the group is criminal lawyer Jamil Curi. His employee Olavo Pereira Dias, and Bolivian Fernando Lith Salces were also arrested. They were carrying 28 kg of cocaine. According to the police, the drug was brought from Bolivia aboard a private plane and was to have been taken by the lawyer to Portugal and Spain. (Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 8 Dec 90 p C 4)

After two months in pursuit of 28-year-old drug trafficker Carlos Roberto Bandeira, Santa Catarina police seized one ton of marijuana in a laboratory used by Bandeira for the past year in Palhoca, 40 km from Florianopolis. (Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 1500 GMT 11 Dec 90)

Chile

A police patrol has arrested Francisco Reinaldo Mamani Vilches, 19, on Route A-55 near Escapina. Mamani Vilches was carrying 1.5 kg of very pure cocaine hydrochloride hidden under his clothes. The drug was packaged in plastic bags. Mamani Vilches claims he purchased the drug on the Bolivian border from a person he does not know well. Mamani Vilches was arrested by Carabineros from a police detachment in the town of Colchane, 200 km from Iquique, on the Bolivian border. (Santiago LA TERCERA DE LA HORA in Spanish 22 Nov 90 p 38)

Investigative Police have arrested a Colombian citizen at the international airport of Santiago when he tried to bring 2 kg of cocaine into the country. The man was identified as Alfonso Lopez, 37, who was hired by a Colombian drug trafficker from the Medellin Cartel. (Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 10 Dec 90)

Cuba

Yemeni Ambassador Comments on UN Gulf Vote

FL1212144990 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1250 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Interview with (?Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz Salam), Yemeni ambassador to Cuba, by unidentified reporter in Havana; date not given—live or recorded; ambassador in Arabic with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish]

[Text] [Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, could you explain to us what the Yemeni Government used as a premise for voting at the UN Security Council against the resolution that authorized the United States to use force in the Persian Gulf region?

[Ambassador] We do not want the United Nations, as an organization and an international group, to be diverted from its basic charter, which calls for resolution of international conflicts by peaceful means.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, it has been said that Yemen was subjected to pressure before, during, and after the Security Council resolution was approved. Could you tell us what form this pressure took?

[Ambassador] I think that television viewers are aware that so far, over 700,000 Yemeni citizens have been expelled from our neighboring country, Saudi Arabia. This is clearly a form of pressure exerted on our government to change its position to one closer to the pro-U.S. alliance in the region.

During the preparation of that resolution, delegations from many countries visited Yemen, delegations from the countries in the region as well as from the large countries, headed by Mr. James Baker, for example.

When I speak of large countries, I am not referring only to the United States. Most of those countries tried to influence us, exert pressure on us, by offering many options—some of them very advantageous to us—for Yemen to desist from its position on the subject.

We adopted the same position taken by the Cuban delegation. Yemen refused to support a resolution (?of that type). We have suffered greatly because of our decision, but our people are capable of coping with this. Our people understand why that decision was made. They know how to support their government, and they will also manage to withstand.

[Reporter] It is known that Yemen was not the only country subjected to pressure. This has led several countries to bring up the idea of democraticizing the United Nations. What is your opinion of this?

[Ambassador] Yemen is one of the countries that has called for the United Nations to become an area of democratic work, of democratic understanding among countries, because we are a country that is very concerned about the position that the United States has held within that organization. The latest resolutions reflect the fact that international law is deficient. Therefore, it is obvious that the Security Council and all the UN organizations are dominated by certain countries. Certain resolutions that those countries want to see adopted are adopted; other resolutions that they do not want to see adopted are not adopted.

We have said to our friends and to those who needed help that what happened in Kuwait is very similar, logically similar to what happened to the Palestinians 23 years ago. We have been saying that what happened to Kuwait can happen to another country too, because there is an antecedent, a real event that the United Nations has not been able to resolve. That is why we feel that democratization of the United Nations is an urgent need.

[Reporter] Mr. Ambassador, finally, we would like to know Yemen's idea of the basic premises for truly achieving peace in the Persian Gulf.

[Ambassador] We believe that a peaceful solution is the most appropriate, suitable, and necessary option at this time. Therefore, it is the objective that all peace-loving countries should pursue. We also believe that the resolution presented by the group of nonaligned countries on the Security Council is a logical and very appropriate basis for solving this problem. In Yemen, we are working to present a solution to the conflict on the basis of this draft resolution.

Castro Attends Reception for Albanian Minister

FL1212152890 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro last night attended a reception to mark the visit to Cuba by Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile. During the reception, Fidel exchanged ideas with Reis Malile and asked questions about the characteristics of his Balkan country, its economic situation, and prospects for bilateral trade.

Shortly before the reception, the Albanian foreign minister toured scientific research centers and the historic core of Havana City.

Today, the Albanian leader and his Cuban counterpart will sign a cooperation agreement and a plan for cultural and educational cooperation between the two countries.

Malile Signs Agreements, Ends Visit

FL1312021590 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] After concluding a heavy work schedule in Havana, Albanian Foreign Minister Reis Malile said good-bye this afternoon to his Cuban hosts. Cuban

Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, Vice Foreign Minister Alcibiades Hidalgo, as well as the ambassadors of both countries, Julio Cesar Cancio and Clirim Cepani, were at the airport. Shortly before his departure, Malile and Malmierca signed a cooperation agreement between the two Foreign Ministries and a governmental program for cultural and educational cooperation.

These two documents cover the period between 1991 and 1993. At the signing ceremony, Malmierca recalled that this event was occurring on the 30th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Cuba and Albania. For his part, Malile asserted that in spite of whatever difficulties may arise, the future will be better for both nations.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified speaker] How would you describe your visit to our country?

[Malile in Albanian with passage-by-passage translation into Spanish] A successful visit, completely successful. We have talked with Comrade Minister Malmierca in a truly (?open), frank, comradely spirit. We have also discussed relations and various international problems. Last night we had the great pleasure of having the president, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, as our guest at our house, our embassy, in Havana. It was a really warm, very meaningful meeting, and it was also very encouraging with regard to relations between our two countries. [end recording]

Soviet Diplomat on Right To Choose Government

FL1212191290 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1725 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Soviet Ambassador to Mexico Oleg Darusenkov has said in the Mexican capital that the USSR defends the Cuban people's sovereign right to choose the kind of government that they want, whether others like it or not.

The Soviet ambassador made this statement during a ceremony to mark the 100th anniversary of the establishment of relations between Mexico and Moscow.

Durasenkov said that, like the Mexican Government, his government advocates the normalization of Cuba's situation.

Hart, Escalante Welcome 'Internationalists'

FL1212161490 Havana Tele Rebelde Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] A new group of internationalist fighters has returned to our homeland from the People's Republic of Angola. Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba, and Division General Fabian Escalante of the Minint [Ministry of Interior] went to the airport to receive the internationalists. The fighters were briefed on the difficult situation that our country is experiencing, and the role that each of them has to play in these times.

[Begin Hart recording] You, who departed for other lands to save another people and their revolution, are now also available to our country. This means, comrades, that you are called upon to preserve our national independence and save our own country. Comrade Fidel has summoned us to this task, and we will have to devote all our efforts and all our intelligence to it. [end recording]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With FAO

FL1312015390 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Agreements on two new technical cooperation projects with Cuba were signed today in Havana by representatives of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization [FAO] and the State Committee for Economic Cooperation [CECE]. The value of both programs exceeds $200,000, which the FAO will contribute. One of them consists of introducing localized, automated irrigation technology for growing plantains, and training professionals and small farmers in how to use these irrigation systems. The second project is called monitoring antibiotic and hormone residues in foods of animal origin and also includes training of experts in zootherapy. Augusto Simoes Lopes Neto, the FAO representative in Cuba, and CECE Minister President Ernesto Melendez Bachs signed the documents, and both praised this support for plans to develop public health and agriculture.

Electronics Trade Protocol With DPRK Signed

FL1212214590 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2034 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] A cooperation protocol which includes technical guidance, joint production, and delivery of raw materials in the electronics field has been signed in Havana by representatives of Cuba and the DPRK. According to the document, the National Automated Systems and Computer Technology Institute will send some samples of its products to Korea next month, so that trade agreements may then be reached.

Representatives of the DPRK Industrial Committee for Automation and Electronics expressed special interest in some Cuban equipment such as displays [preceding word in English], concentrater-diffusers, and alphanumeric keyboards. Both sides agreed that the cooperation protocol signed in the area of electronics will promote development in both countries.

Bahamas

TUC Criticizes 'Sweeping Tax Increases'

FL1212174590 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Nassau, Bahamas, Dec 12, CANA—The Bahamas Trade Union Congress (TUC) has criticised the government for introducing sweeping tax increases without settling overdue pay hikes for government workers.

"You can't expect these people to pay off these damn taxes without giving them something," said TUC President Senator Keith Archer.

Newly-appointed Finance Minister Paul Adderley, presenting his first budget last Thursday, announced U.S. 50 million dollars in new taxes which he said would help government put its finances in order by eliminating a deficit on the recurrent side of the budget. He said Bahamians had benefitted from 200 million dollars in deficit spending over the past four years, and the time had come to put the public finances in order.

"Unless we face these problems squarely, we will surely cease to function as a government," he told Parliament. "We cannot paper over our problems."

"Taxes must be a part of reducing the deficit on recurrent account and beginning to pay off short term debts. It is the only way to put public financing on a stronger, economic path."

The 1991 budget involves a projected expenditure of 700.2 million dollars, comprising 599.8 million dollars in recurrent expenditure and 100.4 million in capital spending, which will be financed through borrowing. Recurrent revenue was put at 604.6 million dollars.

The 50 million dollars being raised through new taxes will be realized through substantial increases in property taxes, business licence fees, car licensing fees, airport fees, and liquor and beer taxes.

Adderley said the largest single contributor to the accumulated recurrent deficit of 200 million dollars over the past four years was an increase in the public service establishment and increased pay which together increased annual expenditure by 92 million dollars. The size of the civil service, he said, had increased from 15,274 in 1987 to 18,512 by November 1990.

As part of measures to keep down costs, Adderley said government ministries would not be allowed to take on new staff unless there is an urgent need. He said existing staff would have to deployed more efficiently and productivity increased.

The largest single item on the recurrent budget is debt servicing for which an allocation of 130 million dollars was made. The national debt increased from 607 million dollars in 1987 to 880 million dollars in 1990. Adderley said debt servicing consumed about 10 percent of recurrent revenue, compared with over 25 percent in some regional countries. He said the upsurge in debt servicing was caused in part by a major programme of capital spending undertaken in recent years.

Cayman Islands

Loan Plan Evokes Mixed Reaction in Legislature

FL1212233090 Bridgetown CANA in English 2001 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] George Town, Cayman Islands, Dec. 12, CANA—For the first time in its history, the Cayman Islands Government will have to borrow to help finance its budget.

At the final meeting of the legislative assembly for 1990, lawmakers on Wednesday passed by a narrow 8-6 vote a measure to borrow U.S. $16.1 million to support the 1991 budget of U.S. $147.5 million, passed last week. Government Minister Benson Ebanks defended the measure, saying "borrowing was not putting the country under any stress." He noted the government had the option of cutting back on expenses, but "in my view, that was not desirable."

Ebanks said much of the shortfall in revenue for the 1991 budget was because recent revenue measures passed by government were not introduced until June 1990, with some measures not taking effect until January, 1991. The other alternative to borrowing, Ebanks said, was to spend the country's U.S. $14.75 million cash reserve. Pro-government backbencher Mabry Kirkconnell also defended the borrowing, saying the money "would provide jobs to keep the economy rolling."

Backbenchers derided the deficit spending. Legislator Truman Bodden said: "It's the first time in history the country had borrowed funds to meet its capital works." Fellow backbench legislator John Jefferson, Jr. also attacked the government bill. He said the deficit spending was an indication of the extent of mismanagement by the government.

The money, which will be used for capital expenditures, will have U.S. $3.5 million earmarked for the community college and school buildings; U.S. $2.4 million, roads; and U.S. $1.5 million for government vehicles and equipment. Government secured passage of the measure with the vote of Kirkconnell. All the remaining backbench legislators voted against passage of the deficit spending bill.

The Cayman Islands is a British dependent territory of 25,000 people. It has long been noted as a tax haven for foreign investment and for tourism. It has the highest per capita income (U.S. $18,500 in 1989) of any country in the Caribbean.

Dominican Republic

Allegations of Possible Attack on Aristide Noted

FL1212190390 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Station commentary entitled "A Worrisome Statement"]

[Text] Activists and leaders of the elections campaign of priest Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haitian presidential candidate, who is said to be the favorite to win the upcoming elections in the neighboring country, have charged that a Dominican terrorist commando linked to the Haitian reactionary right wing, composed of over three paid men, intends to assassinate the priest-candidate. The charge is worrisome. More worrisome is the fact that the statement came from Haitian popular organizations that support Father Aristide's candidacy.

We could not say that there are no Dominicans capable of accepting, for money, the macabre mission of assassinating a Haitian presidential candidate; in this case, the Salesian priest who calls himself the representative of the poor classes of the neighboring country. This is feasible here, there, or in any place of this world in which we are living that is so full of turmoil and all types of passions. It is difficult, however, to conceive that this will materialize and that the Dominicans harbor feelings that are capable of ending the life of the young Haitian leader.

Let us for now characterize the charge as rash and worrisome. Let us hope this is never materialized neither by Dominicans nor by agents of any other nationality, much less Haitians who are the ones who could be ahead or behind the bottom of those terrorist goals.

We ask ourselves, could this charge not be the warning, the sign of a possible disagreement between Father Aristide as president and the Dominican community? May God protect the life of Father Aristide and may true democracy win, and that that triumph be the beginning of an era of great understanding for which the two peoples are asking.

New National Police Chief Outlines Agenda

FL1212171090 Santo Domingo Radio-Television Dominicana Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Major General Ramon Alcides Rodriguez Arias, new chief of the National Police, has instructed the members of the force to act in accordance with the laws and without excesses. The police chief stated that police members should refrain from committing abuses. General Rodriguez Arias also said that he will give priority to crime prevention for as long as he is head of the corps. He urged the members of the public order organization to respect all the initiatives that are implemented in this regard. Maj. Gen. Rodriguez Arias made these remarks when presenting Brigade General Luis Alberto Nunez Guzman as chief of the northern regional police command seated in Santiago.

Grenada

Government Supports Waste Conversion Concept

FL1212163090 Bridgetown CANA in English 1347 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 12, CANA—Grenada is still interested in using waste to produce electricity, after shelving the controversial project. Health and Environment Minister Kenny Lalsingh said "the idea is to have a project that will be of benefit to Grenada by providing electricity to the consumer, but it has to be environmentally safe."

The government, he said, was "convinced that converting non-toxic waste to energy and re-cycling offer new opportunities." He added: "The technology must meet our needs and it must also be clean and environmentally sound."

The Grenada Government recently shelved plans for the establishment of a plant intended to convert waste to electricity, after complaints from political and environment-conscious groups that said Grenada could not generate all the waste needed and the state could not guarantee toxic materials would not be imported for the project.

The plant was to have been established by Waste Conversions Systems of the United States. Lalsingh told CANA [CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY] the agreement with Waste Conversions was placed on hold because of "a lack of information about the partners and public criticism of the structure of the agreement."

He said most of Grenada's foreign exchange was going to petroleum-based energy, noting that the current Gulf crisis and the slowdown in the world economic activities "are forcing us to focus on alternative energy supplies." His message at the recent Miami Conference on the Caribbean was that sources of energy must fit into Grenada's scope for improvement and "must help to improve the environment policy that is sound and will encourage private sector involvement without negative impact on our natural resources." The health minister said Grenada is looking to woo investors who are set on a course of "sustainable and sound development" but will respect the environment in the process.

"The 1990's will be a very challenging decade and economic growth will have to be underwritten by environmentally conscious policies," Lalsingh asserted.

Haiti

Eyewitness Gives Account of Bombing

FL1212222090 Port-au-Prince Radio Haiti-Inter in Creole 2100 GMT 6 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Let us listen to the testimony of someone who was in the Petionville area when the deadly attack occurred.

[Begin recording] [Eyewitness] I think that the attack took place after Aristide left. There was a car displaying an Aristide poster. It was this car that we—the demonstrators—were following, behind a band with drums, pieces of iron, and so on. It was when we approached the Saint-Pierre Market that the explosion occured.

The person...identification of the person is...it is because...the reason we cannot give you a physical description of the person is that he did not look suspicious at the demonstration. He looked like any of us who were there. The only difference was that he was driving a white Rocky [a four-wheel drive Daihatsu automobile].

This means that every time the band stopped, the Rocky stopped. Some of the demonstrators were even leaning on it. At the moment when he was actually performing the deed, he asked the people on the car to move away. This was when they arrived near the bank that is in front of the Saint-Pierre Market. You see, there is a bank in front of the Saint-Pierre Market. He was able to move the Rocky and turned into a street there. I do not know if you use the Sainte-Therese Park. There is an old garage. He parked the Rocky at this garage, then came back and dropped the thing [bomb].

There was testimony from a kid, a little boy who was injured in the explosion. He said he thinks he saw the man [the Rocky's driver] drop the thing, but he is not sure because he is a child. He said he saw the man hurl the thing with a big elastic, a large slingshot. This means that in his anxiousness to drop it—it was into the middle of the crowd that he had to drop it... [changes thought] but we were lucky. You know, he himself wanted to save his skin. It seems that he was alone because when he got back into the car, it was he who took the wheel.

He had time to drop the thing. He did throw it, but it did not land in the middle of the band. It fell nearby, next to a little vendor. It is this lady who lost her arms. As soon as the thing hit, the arms of the lady were cut off; that is when these pieces of broken glass injured me. The thing just blew up and I was injured. I was with a friend. When the power was cut off, my friend told me: We must not stay in the demonstration during the blackout, let us get away from the band. The explosion occurred just when he took my hand. I felt I was wounded but I did not want to tell him because I was still able to walk. This was to keep him from panicking and maybe standing in the middle of the street where now there were bursts from automatic weapons.

The driver of the Rocky was running with the weapon at his back. This means he had the weapon behind his back while he was shooting at the crowd. He was not looking at them.

[Reporter] Is the man who threw the grenade the same one who was shooting?

[Eyewitness] It was the same man. I do not know whether there were other shots fired, but I saw him shooting. I was unlucky enough to take the same escape route as he. He ran up the street by the bank. I sped up the same street because it was the most direct way, and the easiest way to save my skin. I did not want to go where there was a crowd of people. I took the way where there were not so many people. It was also where he parked his car. Fortunately, I had the opportunity to dash under a car and hide there with my friend and my older brother.

[Reporter] Was that when you saw him getting into the car?

[Eyewitness] That was when he got into the car. The reason I said he was alone was because if he had not been alone, he would have had someone waiting behind the wheel who could have started driving off as soon as he got into the car. He got behind the wheel of the white Rocky.

[Reporter] Was there a blackout all this time?

[Eyewitness] Yes, there was a blackout. Then, after he left—imagine if I had sat down somewhere and had seen the man who was shooting—as I told you, I realized that I could save my skin and go home. We walked away furtively. We then sped through the garage where he parked the car to save ourselves. That is when the electricity was restored.

[Reporter] Did you not see the car's plates?

[Eyewitness] No, we did not. As I told you, the car did not look so suspicious that people would pay attention to its plates.

[Reporter] How about the blackout? Can you describe it?

[Eyewitness] Well, the blackout occurred exactly when the head of the band arrived in front of the Saint-Pierre Market. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Former Minister Claims Army Failed in Politics

FL1212183590 Bridgetown CANA in English
1737 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Report by Peter Richards]

[Text] Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec 12, CANA—A former government minister said on Wednesday that the Haitian Army now understood that it had no role to play in the political life of the country. Rosny Desroches, who served as minister of education following the 1986 overthrow of the Jean-Claude Duvalier regime, said that the Army had realised it had been a "major failure" in politics here.

"I think that the Army was conscious of its incapacity to cope with the situation and today I think there is some kind of wisdom which is coming in the Army," he told the CARIBBEAN NEWS AGENCY [CANA].

"I think we have at the head of the army someone.... who understands the situation, and many (political) actors on the scene consider it as a responsible behaviour today."

The Army has already indicated that it would not be party to violence, which marred the two attempts at elections here since the overthrow of the Duvalier government. Political observers fear that violence is likely to occur in the final days leading up to the December 16 general election.

Leading presidential candidate, Roman Catholic Priest Father Jean Bertrand Aristide, has been forced to cancel what party officials said would have been a major political rally in the south of the island today. The move followed last week's bomb explosion during a political rally for the priest, during which at least eight people were killed.

On Wednesday, the horror at the rally was shown on television. Viewers saw a small girl who had most of her body blown away. "This is to show people the magnitude of the violence," a political commentator said afterwards. The victims will be buried here on Wednesday.

Desroches said that the Army had so far "not interefered in the politics of the country and they have been successful so far in keeping a certain level of security in the country." Maybe there is some kind of chance that it will be permanent, he added. He said that attempts by the Army to install someone whom it could have controlled in the past had failed mainly because "it had not been able to bring about the consensus between the Army and the state it thought it could have done."

"The Army has gone through a major failure. I think at the beginning the Army thought it would have been possible for her to play an important role in the policies of the country.... But it has been a great failure for the Army," he told CANA. He said since the overthrow of the Duvalier regime, "each year there was a major failure of the Army." "They have not been able to keep their unity and their power," he remarked.

Aristide Meets With Venezuelan President

FL1212194190 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Three days before the elections, the electoral campaign attempts to change direction. Virtually all presidential candidates are now in Port-au-Prince. They devote the last moments of the electoral campaign to public and private meetings in the capital. According to the electoral law, this campaign will end this Friday 14 December at midnight exactly.

The campaign took the Avalanche movement candidate Jean-Bertrand Aristide to Venezuela yesterday. He went to this country on a private visit. The candidate priest was especially invited by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez.

There were no reports on the conversation held between these two men. The Venezuelan Presidency refused to make any comment on the conversation which took place yesterday, alleging that it is something strictly private. Jean-Bertrand Aristide came back to the Port-au-Prince yesterday afternoon at 1700 after this brief stay in Caracas.

The other favorite, Marc Bazin, candidate of the National Alliance for Democracy and Progress [ANDP], declined the Venezuelan president's invitation. The ANDP leader declined the invitation extended by Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez to go to Caracas for talks. According to Marc Bazin's statement for AFP, the idea of going abroad to receive consecration, just a few days before national elections, was unpleasant.

We must point out that the ANDP has to organize meetings in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area these last days to close its electoral campaign.

FNCD Denies Knowledge of Dominican Plot

FL1212200090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Evans Paul [alias K-Plim], spokesman for the National Front for Change and Democracy [FNCD], has denied that the Avalanche popular committee belongs to Jean-Bertrand Aristide's party. Paul said there is no Avalanche committee but rather the Avalanche operation.

Moreover, he declared that he does not know about a plot involving Dominicans, as reported by a popular committee at a news conference held two days ago. [passage omitted]

URN Reiterates Request To Stop Elections

FL1212230090 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Union for National Reconciliation [URN], Roger Lafontant's party, just sent a press release, number 11, signed by Executive Secretary Dr. Serge Coni, requesting once again that the electoral process be stopped because, from their observations, the electoral process might bring the country to disorder and civil war.

Judge Withdraws From Manigat Hearings

FL1312003690 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Report from LE NOUVELLISTE, No. 33.956, 11 December, under the title "Manigat Case"]

[Text] Justice E. Pean, one of the nine judges hearing the appeal for unconstitutionality of the electoral law brought by Leslie Manigat before the Court of Cassation, has withdrawn from the case.

In a letter sent to his colleagues on 8 December, while they were conferring since the previous evening, Judge Pean declared that he was withdrawing from the case in the name of the higher national interests. He also stated that he did not want to join with any dangerous initiative that could disturb the public order, and promote a climate of insecurity.

Lawyer Pean will be replaced by Judge Gerard Alerte to maintain the quorum of nine required by the law in cases of unconstitutionality proceedings. The case will then be officially resumed and a symbolic hearing will be held again on 12 December in the Court of Cassation.

Judge Pean was part of the tribunal which heard the case of Etienne Raphael Francois on 11 December, a case designated urgent. Francois was another presidential candidate rejected by the Provisional Electoral Council.

CEP Head Comments on Voter Card Distribution

FL1312005090 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Provisional Electoral Council [CEP] president, Jean-Robert Sabalat, told L'UNION journalist Serge Bousicaut that over 20 million voters cards have been printed and forwarded under Army escort to more than 14,000 election bureaus. For distant regions the CEP is considering the use of helicopters.

Sabalat told Bousicaut: We are very willing and are doing our best to organize the elections in the most credible manner in collaboration with volunteers and members of the Haitian Armed Forces.

Exodus From Capital Reflects Election Jitters

FL1312013590 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1700 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpts] Following the communique issued by the minister of national education asking school directors and faculties to discontinue all school activities, many people appear to be leaving the capital and heading for the provinces. The main reason given is that they consider Port-au-Prince too unsafe. Those interviewed suggest that because of the forthcoming elections, they prefer to go to a safer place. [passage omitted]

Yesterday, in a news conference by the National Front for Democracy and Change, the leading presidential candidate Jean-Bertrand Aristide asked young people not to fall into the intimidation trap of being pressured to leave the capital so they are not able to vote on election day.

Contrary to rumors circulating with respect to the airlines, the provisional government advises that the airport will not be closed during the electoral period.

El Salvador

FMLN To Continue Fighting Despite U.S. Aid

PA1212224090 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] has sent a communique to our teletype room. The communique states the following:

Washington has again thrown a lifesaver to the Armed Forces of a parasitical government that survives thanks to the financial aid and decisions of warmongering U.S. groups that stubbornly want to destroy the Salvadoran people's self-determination.

The U.S. Government has erroneously decided to send $48.1 million to reorganize the Air Force—the most criminal branch of the Armed Forces—and to increase the destructive resources used for the so-called air battle.

The men and women [word indistinct] comprising the new National Army For Democracy, however, have a message for the fascist commanders:

The lack of a truly sovereign and nationalist army legitimizes the creation of a National Army for Democracy as the only patriotic army. The funds sent to the Armed Forces are not funds for peace. Quite the contrary, these are funds for war and death. These funds will destroy our national sovereignty. These funds are destined to fall into the bottomless pockets of the Armed Forces, which is waging a war that it has already lost.

The communique continues:

The people's army has grown throughout the country, and it has firmly and justly decided to end—once and for all—the impunity enjoyed by the Air Force, which has destroyed villages and killed and terrorized civilians from the air.

The communique asserts:

The cowardly military forces have strafed and massacred the people without being punished. The Salvadorans have clear and safe skies; therefore, our National Army for Democracy will continue to fight against the unpopular air battle. It will continue to defend the political option as the solution to the country's conflict.

The communique states:

The Air Force's flares will not divert our fire. New fighter planes will arrive and will be shot down. The tactics of low-altitude flights will continue to meet the barrage of our antiaircraft fire.

Helicopter Damaged; Clashes, Casualties Reported

PA1112180390 Paris AFP in Spanish 1637 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Dec (AFP)—Government sources announced that two Salvadoran Air Force (FAS) pilots were wounded and one artilleryman was killed today in Chalatenango Department, northern El Salvador, when guerrillas attacked a UH-1H helicopter that was providing support for the infantry.

In addition to the attack on the helicopter, the Armed Forces Press Committee (Coprefa) reported violent clashes in the eastern part of the country, which left 33 guerrillas and six soldiers dead, as well as 50 soldiers and 15 rebels wounded.

Military confrontations have intensified over the past 24 hours in Chalatenango, Usulutan, and San Miguel Departments in eastern El Salvador, according to the military press office's reports.

Coprefa reported this morning that the combat helicopter was attacked in Loma del Cerro, Las Vueltas jurisdiction, in Chalatenango Department, 81 km north of the capital.

Even though the two pilots were wounded and one artilleryman killed, the aircraft, which was damaged by rifle fire, apparently managed to make an emergency landing in an area close to the combat zone, Coprefa announced.

In its first report the Army's press office did not provide the identity or rank of the helicopter crew members.

This is the fourth combat aircraft downed or damaged since the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front initiated an offensive on 20 November when it used Soviet-made surface-to-air missiles. The FMLN downed one A-37 fighter and one AC-47 transport airplane using these missiles.

During clashes waged over the past few hours in the vicinity of Las Vueltas, Coprefa reports that five guerrillas were killed and 17 soldiers wounded, in addition to the helicopter crew.

Meanwhile, on 10 December in Moropala Canton, in the eastern Usulutan Department, two soldiers and six guerrillas were killed in clashes, and six soldiers and 10 FMLN guerrillas were wounded.

Coprefa also reported that another 27 rebels and three Arce Battalion soldiers have been killed during clashes at Corinita farm and at the Las Marias mill in Chinameca, San Miguel Department, also in the eastern part of the country.

During these clashes 25 soldiers were wounded by shrapnel from explosive devices and rifles shots.

Coprefa has also announced that six civilians have been killed and one wounded by guerrilla fire during various military activities in eastern El Salvador.

Attorney General Escapes Attack Unharmed

PA1212022690 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 0004 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] San Salvador, 11 Dec (DPA)—Attorney General Oberto Antonio Mendoza Jerez escaped unharmed when unidentified individuals machine-gunned his vehicle in northern San Salvador this afternoon, according to official sources.

A very concise report states that the official's bodyguards repelled the attack and were able to wound three of the alleged extremists, who were traveling in another vehicle in which they escaped.

The military report accused the assailants of being "terrorists," but other groups believe the action could be linked to the stance of the Attorney General's Office in the trial against nine military officers accused of killing six Jesuits. The killings took place on 16 November 1989.

It was also reported that this afternoon there was another attack against an unidentified government official when he was stepping out of his vehicle in the parking lot of a San Salvador hotel.

Coprefa Reports 41 Killed in San Miguel Clashes

PA1212214890 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 1907 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] In San Salvador, urban guerrillas dynamited a bank branch located on the Gabriela Mistral Street at approximately 0630 today. There were no casualties resulting from this action, but the building was damaged, authorities have reported. In addition, at 0700 rebels took over a stretch of the highway leading to Santa Ana, near La Pedrera and Los Chorros resort. According to Santa Tecla military authorities, the rebels, who stayed on the highway for about 15 minutes, set one bus on fire and punctured the tires of other vehicles.

In addition, the Armed Forces Press Committee [Coprefa] reported this morning that 30 guerrillas and 11 soldiers were killed and eight soldiers wounded during the military clashes that took place yesterday and part of last night in San Jorge, San Miguel Department. It has also been confirmed that the guerrillas attacked Military Detachment 1 in Chalatenango this morning. The attack with 81-mm mortar shells damaged the mayor's office and several homes, Coprefa reported this morning. Finally, it has been reported that rebels attacked La Sierpe military base, located 1 km from Chalatenango, wounding two soldiers.

Honduras

Salvadoran Troops Enter National Territory

PA1212220690 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2016 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX)—Today, a local radio station reported that Salvadoran troops had entered Honduran territory, seemingly in pursuit of Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) rebels. The presumed Salvadoran Army raid took place in the La Pera area in the eastern Lempira Department that borders with El Salvador.

President Rafael Leonardo Callejas briefly stated that he will hold an urgent meeting with Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata in the next few hours and that a communique concerning the incident will be issued.

It was unofficially reported that UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) helicopters flew over east Honduras to evacuate the people who were allegedly wounded during the Salvadoran Army and FMLN clash. ONUCA has the responsibility of ensuring that rebel groups do not use the Central American countries to attack other states. ONUCA currently surveils the border areas between Honduras and El Salvador.

Carias Says Entry Not Violation

PA1312025990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2221 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Honduran Foreign Minister Mario Carias Zapata reported that 16 of the 200 Salvadoran soldiers, who entered Honduran territory today, are seriously wounded. The minister said the number of seriously wounded soldiers could increase to 25 or 30. He also said that the wounded soldiers are expected at the Santa Rosa de Copa hospital in eastern Honduras.

The Salvadoran soldiers entered Honduran territory this morning after they had waged a fierce battle against rebels in a northern Salvadoran area that borders with Honduras.

Carias said that the Honduran authorities do not dismiss the possibility that more Salvadoran soldiers, both injured and uninjured, have entered Honduran territory and that the amount of Salvadoran soldiers in the country could be over 200. The Salvadoran soldiers entered Honduras and reached the Guarita community in the Lempira Department that borders with El Salvador.

The Honduran Government has requested that the UN Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) corroborate the entry of the Salvadoran troops and allow the use of its helicopters to transfer the wounded soldiers to Honduran or Salvadoran hospitals.

The foreign minister emphasized that the entry of Salvadoran soldiers "technically cannot be called a violation of the Honduran territory."

The Salvadoran Government has been notified of the incident, and the necessary steps have already been started in Tegucigalpa to allow the soldiers to return to their country as soon as possible.

FMLN Denies Rebels Crossed Border

PA1312045690 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSU in Spanish 0404 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Tegucigalpa—The Salvadoran Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, has said that none of its men entered Honduran territory during the withdrawal of approximately 200 Salvadoran soldiers who sought refuge in Honduras on 12 December following a clash with the rebels.

Miguel Saenz, a member of the FMLN Political-Diplomatic Commission who met with Honduran President Rafael Callejas in the afternoon of 12 December, said that the guerrillas respect the borders of neighboring countries and that none of them entered Honduran territory while pursuing Army soldiers.

Salvadoran soldiers—85 of whom were wounded—sought refuge at the border municipality of La Guarita, Lempira Department, according to reports from the Honduran Government.

Saenz said that his meeting with President Callejas is part of the efforts conducted by the Salvadoran rebels with area presidents so that the Central American summit to be held in Costa Rica next weekend will promote peace efforts in El Salvador.

Saenz stressed that the offensive launched by the FMLN last month is aimed at pressuring President Alfredo Cristiani's government to negotiate peace with the guerrillas. The main obstacle to peace, Saenz added, is the intransigency of the Armed Forces, which have not shown a willingness to yield in an effort to facilitate the negotiating process.

Saenz said that Callejas expressed interest and concern over the Salvadoran situation and is willing to help expedite the negotiations which began in April under UN mediation.

New Armed Forces Commander Discua Views Tasks

PA1212153390 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Interview with new Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Luis Alonso Discua Elvir by Juan Bautista Vasquez in Tegucigalpa on 11 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Vasquez] We are here at the office of the new Honduran Armed Forces commander in chief. Luis Alonso Discua Elvir was selected by the National Congress on the afternoon of 10 December. He was also promoted to the rank of brigadier general. Sir, please tell us if you are pleased with the National Congress' decision to select you for commanding the Honduran military institution.

[Discua] I am very honored that the National Congress has appointed me commander in chief of the Armed Forces. I believe that my appointment is the most genuine and unequivocal sign of the trust that the people's top representatives and my comrade-in-arms have in me. I must stress, however, that this position also involves a very serious responsibility.

[Vasquez] General, what can the Honduran people expect from your mandate as the Armed Forces commander in chief?

[Discua] The Hondurans can rest assured that, as the new Honduran Armed Forces commander, I will struggle unremittingly to strengthen the democratic system in which we Hondurans live. I will also ensure that the people live in peace and tranquility because there is respect for human rights.

[Vasquez] Talking specifically about the military institution, is there unity in the Armed Forces or are there divisions in its ranks?

[Discua] The Honduran Armed Forces is an indivisible organization based on hierarchy and discipline. Despite speculations or personal differences, these factors provide the firm unity required for the institution's survival. Thus, when the institution determines a certain goal, all its members direct their efforts toward the attainment of this goal.

[Vasquez] Sometimes changes or transfers of military personnel are said to be [words indistinct]. Does this situation exist in the Honduran Armed Forces?

[Discua] Transfers in the Armed Forces are routine and part of the institution's activities. As an active organization it cannot separate itself from [words indistinct]. The military institution requires personnel changes to provide more and improved vitality to the corps. The word purge cannot describe any action carried out by the professional Armed Forces of today. As all officiers are aware, changes are made and officers are replaced. All officers know that they can be replaced, regardless of the position they occupy.

[Vasquez] Several social sectors in the country have called the change at the command level of the military institution a coup. What can you say about this?

[Discua] A change in command cannot be called a coup, just as the transfer of personnel cannot be called a purge. As I said before, changes in command are routine because these are temporary appointments. For example, depending on circumstances, officers can be transferred before they complete their assignment. One of these circumstances could be when an officer wishes to resign from the military. [passage omitted]

[Vasquez] As you assume the position of commander in chief of the Honduran Armed Forces, how are our military relations with the United States?

[Discua] They are friendly and cordial, and there is no reason to think or presume the contrary. It should be understood, however, that these relations are based on mutual respect, which results in a mutual effort.

[Vasquez] Does this mean that you will try to get the U.S. Government to revoke its decision to reduce military aid to our country?

[Discua] In general, I can say that anything that can contribute to the well-being of the country and the military institution will be my permanent concern.

[Vasquez] Will there be new joint military maneuvers, or will they be suspended for some time?

[Discua] It is too early to announce any decision in that regard. Nevertheless, you can be sure that any position we assume will be the result of a profound and thorough analysis based on what is best for our national interests. I must stress, however, that the joint maneuvers you refer to contribute to improving the skillfulness and operational capability of both countries, and are based on bilateral agreements in accordance with our constitution.

[Vasquez] Do you plan to implement programs to strengthen the professionalism of the various branches of our Armed Forces?

[Discua] I have already implied this in my previous answers, but, yes, I am determined to maintain a permanent process of professionalization. It will have my full support. It is a soldier's right and duty to receive training and make himself more professional.

[Vasquez] An unavoidable subject is the protection of people's lives and property, a duty which falls on the Public Security Forces. There are many complaints about police protection nationwide. Will you give the police more support in carrying out their duties?

[Discua] That is correct. Public Security Forces play a very important role in the struggle against crime and in maintaining public order and protecting citizens. In that regard, I will fully support them so they can carry out their duties as a protective body under which citizens will feel secure. I must recognize, however, that some agents, as human beings, have committed violations that are not justified. Hence, these situations will be subject to a serious analysis in order to improve our police force. As the people's armed branch, our mission is to protect, not to abuse, citizens' rights.

[Vasquez] Should it be necessary for soldiers to leave their barracks to cooperate with the police, would you authorize it?

[Discua] The time and circumstances determine what actions must be taken and which decisions must be made.

[Vasquez] Do you and the Armed Forces fully support the government headed by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas?

[Discua] There should be no doubt about that. According to the Constitution and the law, the Armed Forces were created to defend the Republic's territorial integrity and sovereignty; to guarantee peace, public order, and respect for the Constitution; and to safeguard the principle of free elections and the right to freely choose the president of the Republic from among several candidates. The Honduran people have had to pay a high price to live in relative peace and democracy. As guarantors of that process, we will not move backward in our determination to consolidate that system of life and government in which public liberties are respected, and which we believe is the best one conceived of up to this date.

[Vasquez] Do you think there could be a rapprochement between the people and the Armed Forces under your command?

[Discua] I will do my best to make that a reality. I believe that the greater the rapprochement, the more possibilities Hondurans will have to join efforts attaining a better life. United we can overcome differences, voices of hatred, and the slogans from subversive groups. At the end of the current century, Hondurans must give up the positions that divide us, and adopt one that identifies and unites us: our love for Honduras. [passage omitted]

[Vasquez] Is there close cooperation between the U.S. narcotics department, known as the DEA, and the Honduran Armed Forces in the struggle against drug trafficking?

[Discua] Since the drug trafficking scourge is a worldwide problem, there are many organizations fighting against it; therefore, we support any international organization that fights drug trafficking.

[Vasquez] Gen. Discua, in this interview we have talked about different topics of national interest for the benefit of the Honduran people. To end this interview, do you have any special message for all our listeners this morning?

[Discua] [Seven-second break in reception]...ideologically, I am convinced that only by respecting individual and social rights can we build a better fatherland and create the proper atmosphere so that all citizens can forge their own destiny without fear. The Armed Forces, the leadership of which has been vested in me, will always guarantee the security of each and every fellow citizen. It will not be on the side of one political group. Our mission, according to the law, is to preserve the law and social harmony, which are necessary for political stability, public order, peace, and development. I want to emphasize to the noble people of Honduras that arrogance will not be my brand of leadership. I assume leadership with a humble heart. I have my limitations,

but I have faith in God, in the sacred interests of Honduras, and in the military institution.

Nicaragua

Army Turns Military Buildings Over to Government

PA1312040590 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2247 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Speech by Major General Joaquin Cuadra Lacayo during ceremony to transfer military buildings over to civilian authorities held at the Juigalpa General Staff building in Chontales Department—live]

[Text] President Violeta Chamorro, members of the cabinet, guests, fellow officers: In line with the commitment that you, Mrs. Chamorro, made at the cabinet meeting held in Juigalpa, Chontales Department, on 21 November, allow me to read the list of military buildings and the timetable according to which they will be handed over to the central government.

The following buildings of the 51th Brigade in Boaco will be transferred on 26 December 1990: the [name indistinct] Company and Self-Defense building; El Empalme Battallion building; the Tamapa Battalion building, known as Rancho Rojo, and the Boaco fighting men's medical center. This makes a total of four buildings. The following buildings located in the 52th Brigade in Santo Tomas will be transferred on 27 and 28 December 1990: La Libertad's Workers Club; Villa Sandino's Reserve Company building; the 50th Tactical Combat Battalion building, known as El Granero, also located in Villa Sandino; and Santo Tomas'social club.

In Nueva Guinea territory, the following buildings will be transferred on 17 December 1990: the Jose Benitez Escobar's neighborhood battalion building; the Palo Linda's neighborhood battalion building; and the city's downtown club house.

In the 54th Brigade territory in Rama, the following buildings will be transferred on 21 December: Muelle de los Bueyes' Battalion building; La Esperanza Battalion building, La Esperanza's Self-Defense Company building; the Guapi Battalion building.

Here in Juigalpa, the headquarters of the 56th Infantry Brigade, the following buildings will be transferred on 12 and 13 December: the Coapa Battalion building in Coapa, the Juigalpa Brigade General Staff building, where we are right now, and the building where the Juigalpa Reserve Battalion was located. Mrs. President, 19 buildings out of a total of 34 in Military Region 5 will be transferred. Through a major undertaking, we managed to go beyond your pledge at the cabinet meeting of turning over 18 military buildings. Nineteen buildings in all, or 56 percent of military buildings occupied by the Army in Region 5, will be handed over. Thank you.

Chamorro Speech Upon Receiving Bases

PA1312045190 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2251 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Speech by President Violeta Barrios de Chamorro at the Nicaraguan Army's General Staff building in Juigalpa, Chontales Department, during a ceremony to receive two military bases—live]

[Text] Good morning to all, Monsignor Pablo Antonio Vega, Bishop of Juigalpa, members of my government, the mayors of Region 5, members of the Nicaraguan Army, special guests, ladies and gentlemen, children, and all of those present here.

Today, 12 December, is the Virgin of Guadalupe's day. Many of us believe in her and, as my friend the mayor says, she is also the [words indistinct]. God helps us. We are all with Him, both those who are shouting at this moment and the rest of the Nicaraguan people. We wanted peace and now we have it. For some of the politicians [words indistinct] governing was synonymous with ruling. As a mother, I understand that to govern means to orient and persuade with words and through dialogue. To govern is to educate. Democracy is attained and consolidated, not through ruling but through educating.

This is an act of government. This is why it is intended to teach the people a process of change and a new mentality. This place, which was formerly occupied by military bases, will now be used for the people's good. (?Tamana) and (?La Tonga) were the headquarters of the 52d Infantry Brigade and the Reserve Battalion, respectively, in which [words indistinct]. They will now become the La Uribe manufacturing plant, a carpentry and woodworking training center, and a shelter for the disabled. In other words, they will be used for the good of all.

Not only that: As of today, the sites will be a symbol to express what my government basically wants—to substitute training for war for educating for peace. This entails a bridge that will forever span this turbulent river that has overflowed Nicaragua and brought devastation so many times. It entails a bridge that spans the river of militarism and reaches the banks of a new history, where everything can be settled through dialogue in the brotherhood of democracy. I have chosen a symbol of the peace that we are today outlining over the homeland's history: a symbol of shaping arms into ploughshares. I want this to symbolize my presidential term, my memory, and my willingness to govern. I want it to symbolize that my government can be regarded as a school of change from the use of arms to the use of ploughshares. It can be regarded as a school of change to make the Nicaraguan people's hearts and minds pass from the instruments of death to the instruments of life.

It is my duty to insist—and I do insist—on such a change, on which peace must be based. I will not cease to highlight the promises of peace for the children and young people of my homeland and all of Central America. I will not cease to give moral and material

support to the great union of the peaceful people in Central America. Only a mother knows how much the heart of the homeland suffers as the result of civil strife. This is why I am here planting this seed. These military bases will become educational, health, and protection centers for those countless who are in need.

I want this change to take place today. The planting of the seed will follow tomorrow so that the crop of peace can be abundant and so that the blood of brothers will never again stain our glorious flag. Thanks to all. May God bless you all. I also thank the Army and all of the military because we are all brothers and must live together. These facilities are at the disposal of all mayors, many of whom will surely come to work so that this country can recover from its wounds. Thanks to all. [applause]

Telcor Region 4 Strike Could Be Extended

PA1212162790 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Telcor [Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Service Institute] trade union is threatening to extend Region 4's strike to the entire country if the radio frequency workers' demand to fire [words indistinct] does not happen by this afternoon.

Yesterday the striking workers took over a microwave repeater, which left Nicaragua without communications with Costa Rica and Panama, in order to force Telcor Director Pablo Vigil to accept negotiations. Mario Malespin, Telcor's National Employees' Union trade union leader has details:

[Begin Malespin recording] We have three different cases. The first is the oldest and concerns the radio frequency workers. The workers had decided by an absolute majority not to allow the director of Telcor access to the installations because they felt that he had gone too far in mistreating workers. This situation remains the same and the administration has not shown any signs of wanting to dicuss this conflict. The second case involves Telcor's workers in Region 4. The workers decided on 3 December to strike because they felt it was the only way to correct unilateral, arbitrary, and illegal actions taken against them. The third case is that we, a union federation, presented a petition to the Labor Ministry in which the basic argument concerns the administration's recognition of a collective agreement that we had signed with the previous administration. This agreement had also been approved by the Labor Ministry. This collective agreement is being disregarded by the current administration. In the petition, we had already agreed to go to the Labor Ministry to negotiate the demands outlined in the petition.

The recognition of the collective agreement is one of the most important rights, along with other clauses pertaining to union rights and demanding better wages. The administration, however, with the Labor Ministry's backing, has refused to negotiate until the conflicts in Region 4 are resolved. At 1400 today we are meeting with the administration at the Labor Ministry. If the conflict is not resolved by 1400, the time we have set for the meeting, I believe there will be no other option than to take actions to a national level. We view the denial of our rights in accordance with the collective agreement, which includes Christmas toys for children, gift baskets, and other previously agreed upon end-of-the-year benefits, as stubborness and a delaying tactic on the part of the administration. [end recording]

Strike Affects External Communications

PA1212162990 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1447 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Managua, 12 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The strike decreed by workers of the state-owned Nicaraguan telephone company in the southern sector of the country has affected the country's communications with Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, and the United States, several sources reported today.

The employees of Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Services [Telcor] in Granada, Masaya, and Rivas Departments began a strike last week to exert pressure concerning their social and economic demands. The strike initially affected telephone communication with the southern region of the country.

On 11 December the workers on strike increased their pressure by disconnecting the "Rancho Grande" microwave network, located in Nicaraguan territory, thus interrupting Nicaragua's communications with Costa Rica, Panama, Mexico, and the United States.

The workers demand a labor contract that includes salary increases and better labor conditions, which would represent an additional disbursement of $13 million a month for the state-owned enterprise.

Likewise, Jose Benito Escoto, director of Telcor's administrative division, said that the Sandinists participating in the strike want to "impose an onerous labor contract" because the institution does not have the means to fulfill their demands.

Telcor Director Pablo Vigil said that the labor contract demanded by the workers "will not be signed as long as the strike continues, and this decision is supported by the Labor Ministry."

Vigil Discusses Strike, Lawsuits

PA1312024790 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 2256 GMT 12 Dec 90

["Exclusive" interview with Telcor (Nicaraguan Telecommunications and Postal Service) Minister Pablo Ernesto Vigil by Reporter Jose Luis Zapata; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Vigil] Communications were interrupted because of truly unusual action by people who do not understand the importance of communications. These people have

caused the country great harm. The communications were restored before dawn today. I would also like to take this opportunity to tell the Telcor workers, and the people in general, that we are experiencing problems because of the inflexibility of a few union leaders who—unquestionably on instructions from their superiors—want to prove that there cannot be stability in Nicaragua as long as they are not taken into account and as long as they do not rule this country.

Since I assumed office as Telcor minister, I have been willing to work with the workers and raise their standard of living through higher salaries and benefits. We cannot understand why the Telcor workers—whose mimimum salaries are approximately 150 gold cordobas; whose social benefits reach nearly that much as the result of health services and the best social security package that the government can offer; whose relatives also receive health services and get a number of fringe benefits, such as travel expenses, incentives, and glasses—are contemptuously trying to blackmail our administration with a list of demands and a demand to implement a collective agreement while they take over the facilities and sabotage both the Region 4 plants and the Central American transmission line. We want to tell the Telcor workers who stayed at their working sites in the other regions and Managua that we feel they have heeded the Nicaraguan people's voice asking them to go on working because Nicaragua requires stability, and Nicaraguans must prove to the world that we are a serious country and we are working to reconstruct it. Any demand for negotiations should be made through the proper channels. We have designated a commission that was about to start negotiations at the Labor Ministry to revise the collective agreement handed down to us by the Sandinists. Of course, the agreement had never been enforced because all of the clauses included by the Sandinists cannot be applied.

Anyway, we must say that the aggressive stand of these people in Region 4 and of those who took over the Difrera [Radio Freqencies Directorate] facilities inflicts tremendous damage on the institution and the country alike. Because the Labor Ministry today declared the strike illegal, we will dismiss all those workers who have assumed a belligerent stand if they fail to return to work today. The Difrera facilities will be closed down for an indefinite time and Difrera will be managed directly by this office as of today. We have made this decision because we realize that the leaders responsible for this situation are unwilling to favor sensible negotiations. We will also initiate criminal legal action against the comunications technicians who lent themselves to block the communications at the Central American transmission pylon at Rancho Grande. Because of this action, the communications between Costa Rica, Panama, and the rest of Central America were cut off for two days.

These people never understood the damage they were inflicting on the country and the region. We will try them on charges of sabotage—a crime whose penalty is imprisonment. We will also try Region 4's communications technicians for having kept this region incommunicado for several days. We do not know how many people have had serious problems because of the lack in communications. We will try all the people responsible for these criminal actions, apart from any agreements that might be reached at the Labor Ministry in connection with labor benefits. We will also try the union leaders of Region 4 who physically attacked our delegate, Carlos Velar, broke into his home, threatened to kill him, and stole his car. These are criminal actions which we will punish, regardless of any labor relationship we could have had with these people. We will also try on aggression charges the individuals who kidnapped Pablo Narvaez—our delegate in Carazo—and roughened him up. We cannot tolerate this kind of action by self-appointed representatives of our workers and the people. These people act outside of the law, perhaps thinking that they can do such things because this government believes in reconciliation and has given opportunities to all. This does not mean, however, that confusion and lack of order and authority can be allowed to prevail here.

I want to tell all of our workers that Telcor is a serious institution and that we will not permit chaos and disorder. We have work to do. We must ensure that the people have the communications they require for their activities, needs, and businesses. Therefore, we must serve the people and society. The workers should not use the institution to press demands that could be settled in a civilized manner, if they are right.

[Zapata] Mr. Vigil, now that the Labor Ministry declared the strike illegal and communications with the other Central American countries have been restored this morning and in light of the fact that a commission is revising the labor agreements, is there any agenda prepared for a meeting with Mario Maldespin, president of the Federation of Telcor Workers Union?

[Vigil] Once the strikers vacate the facilities, we would, in a climate of peace and tranquillity, negotiate and revise the collective agreement at the Labor Ministry in accordance with the ministry's regulations. We must make it clear that the central government has designated the Labor Ministry as the supervisor of the revision of all agreements between workers and all ministries and autonomous institutions so the latter can coordinate these negotiations. We appointed our commission more than 15 days ago to start negotiating this agreement and a list of demands that had also been presented. This meeting was suspended because of the illegal takeover both in Region 4 and Difrera facilities.

[Zapata] It has also been reported that there are frictions and conflicts within Difrera, which is headed by Ramiro Montiel. How is this situation being handled?

[Vigil] The Difrera workers union has never told me that they had an argument with Montiel. I only learned of this through the papers. Through the Labor Ministry, we learned that they accused Montiel of mistreatment. But

his mistreatment is that he called someone a fool. This is stated in the inspection memos made by the Labor Ministry.

Apparently, this matter with Montiel is being handled by people outside of Difrera, and the workers are only instruments. Several individuals received privileges during the Sandinists' regime in the form of illegally granted frequencies. For some reason, these people are worried about the possibility of an inquiry concerning these illegally granted frequencies. I want to tell them we will investigate these actions anyway. If the previous Telcor administration granted these frequencies legally, these people have no reason to be afraid. If the frequencies were granted illegally, however, they should be afraid. I think the case with Montiel goes beyond what the workers say because Montiel is a kind professional who has never sought to profit and who lives modestly. If he had been as the papers describe him, the favorite of Luis Manuel Debayle and things like that, he would be a millionaire with houses and all that. We fully trust Montiel, a religious man who lives modestly. We believe all of these attacks are groundless and related to what I mentioned previously.

18 Region 5 Mayors Declare One-Day Strike

PA1212160590 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The 18 mayors of Region 5 have issued a communique announcing they will not work today, in an attempt to pressure the Legislative Assembly into keeping the military budget for 1991 at no more than 38 million gold cordobas. The mayors met with UNO [National Opposition Union] mayors from other parts of the country in Managua yesterday.

In their communique the mayors do not specify what sorts of activities or projects they will paralyze. This is their second strong action in only two months. The communique was published at the same time as another communique issued by the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement, which represents UNO radicals. The mayors did not clarify whether the announced strike includes people's movements in their municipalities, nor did they give the reason why they are not working on the very day President Chamorro has elected to visit the area for the second time.

Deputy Nardo Tejeira, the mayors' adviser, said it must be made clear that the mayors' strike is not the beginning of an uprising. Deputy Tejeira said that this new strike is to protest the approval of more than $38 million [currency as heard] for the Army.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] What is behind the new action by the Let Us Save Democracy Civic Movement and the mayors? Is it an uprising?

[Tejeira] No, not at all. The mayors are the ones who receive the people's feedback. It is not an uprising, and I believe that this word should not be mentioned. The mayors' actions are only a reflection of how the people feel about the need to cut back on the defense budget. Region 5 citizens are demanding the reduction of the defense budget by [passage indistinct].

[Reporter] The mayors are going on strike, is not that right?

[Tejeira] It is a one-day strike to protest a higher military budget than what the people want. It is not an uprising. Please, let us make that distinction very clear. [end recording]

Panama

Linares Assured U.S To Comply With Treaties

PA1212224990 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1929 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Just a few seconds ago Foreign Minister Julio Linares disclosed to the press decisions adopted by the U.S. Government regarding Panama's future. According to a Foreign Ministry communique, the United States will comply with their Panama Canal Treaty commitments that stipulate an end to the U.S. military presence on 31 December 1999. The communique adds that the recent deployment of U.S. forces at the request of the Panamanian Government to assist in maintaining public order is a provisional measure. At Panama's request, a small number of U.S. military personnel remain close to the El Renacer Prison. No other U.S. military personnel are involved in public order work.

The communique goes on to say: Just as President Bush indicated, we hope the Panamanian Government will continue to improve its capacity to maintain public order so that it does not need to seek outside assistance in the future.

Now, let us hear Foreign Minister Julio Linares:

[Begin recording] [Linares] We find commentaries and opinions by Panamanians in the daily press that say that the Foreign Ministry should repudiate the statements made in Caracas by the U.S. President. Others say that the Foreign Ministry should reject his statements. I would like to say the following:

In international relations, acts of repudiation and rejection should be what strikes are to trade unions: a last resort. Only after other options have been exhausted should one either go on strike, repudiate, or reject. I believe the basic thing is not to create confrontations; instead, one should begin by requesting a clarification and rectification. This is definitely the best way for the country.

I believe we can say with great satisfaction that the U.S. ambassador visited the Foreign Ministry this morning to hand us a statement by the U.S. State Deparment precisely in connection with President Bush's statements. The State Department says that the U.S. intends

to comply with the canal treaties, and that they will exercise their rights under the treaties until 31 December 1999. This tells us that the Panamanian Government has taken the most proper path in this affair.

[Unidentified reporter] What did President Bush say about the joint Southern Command and Public Force patrols?

[Linares] President Bush has not talked about that. President Bush specifically says that on 31 December 1999 the United States will leave the Panama Canal and the defense sites and areas, just as the Panama Canal Treaties stipulate. No decision has yet been made on the joint patrols that were to end in December 1990.

[Reporter] Did you discuss with President Bush...?

[Linares] I spoke to the ambassador.

[Reporter] Did you discuss the Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty with the ambassador?

[Linares] No, not this morning. The ambassador did not broach the subject; I did, but in very general terms. The main reason for the visit was to establish what the U.S. Government's position is regarding President Bush's statements or to clarify what President Bush wanted to say. That was the main purpose.

[Reporter] How long will U.S. troops remain at El Renacer, since this has been described as a provisional measure? How long will they stay?

[Linares] Before answering that question, I would have to obtain information and exchange views with the authorities responsible for the security in that state institution. [end recording]

PDC Proposal for Rebuilding Country Outlined

PA1212194190 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1716 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Christian Democratic Party [PDC], an intermediate organization between the government and the people, has issued a communique to the country rejecting the recent coup d'etat plans and stating that the task of rebuilding democracy should be carried out by all Panamanians. It added that the overwhelming reaction from the government and the people to defend democracy has proved that the Panamanian people will not be deceived by false prophets and that they do not want to solve their problems in an undemocratic way.

The following is a part of the statement given by PDC President Ricardo Arias Calderon:

[Begin Arias Calderon recording] A. The political forces of the government alliance, led by President Endara, must objectively evaluate the government's actions during its first year in office.

B. The time is right to carry out a process of quick and deep changes in the structures we inherited so as to consolidate democracy and achieve a better life for all the Panamanians through overall development with social justice and national harmony.

C. Repeating the successful experience of forging unity to end the dictatorship, we propose seven basic topics on which an agreement must be reached to achieve a renewed and effective alliance. The topics are as follows:

First topic: Achieve an understanding on the most urgent measures in the economic sector to advocate a financial reactivation and an economic growth that is capable of reaching all the social groups, thus countering the country's main problem—unemployment—with specific and realistic solutions.

Second topic: Establish the necessary balance between the servicing of the enormous financial debt and the attention to the scandalous social debt we have with our population, using the state's financial management measures to fulfill the fiscal goals and social goals.

Third topic: Evaluate the public security policy to institutionalize its achievements and overcome its limitations, and to consolidate a police corps that is subordinate to the civilian authorities, efficiently combats crime, and defends the democratic system. [end recording]

Speaking as PDC president, Dr. Arias Calderon said that it is also necessary to evaluate the work carried out by the government representatives to the Legislative Assembly to attain better coordination with the other parties and the executive branch. He also said it is necessary to present a balanced image of official actions and to establish a government communication and information policy so that the people may learn about the national government's progress in an atmosphere of respect.

Dr. Arias Calderon was later approached by RPC Radio in his capacity as minister of government and justice. We asked him about the statements given by a person presumably identified as former Captain Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan, who is closely linked with former Panamanian dictator Manuel Antonio Noriega and who has announced guerrilla actions in different points of the country.

Dr. Arias Calderon refused to give an answer. Nevertheless, he said that force could be used to defend Panamanian democracy. He also said that if the Public Force does not have the sophisticated weapons that an alleged armed group currently has, the authorities could get the weapons.

Ford Calls For National Concerted Effort

PA1312002490 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 90 p 1, A2

[Text] Guillermo Ford, the second vice president of Panama and its planning and economic policy minister, has inaugurated the meeting of Non-Government Organizations for the Development of Low-Income Groups

in Panama. In his speech to the participants of this event, Ford called for a great national concerted effort in which the businessmen, the government, and the workers of the public and private sectors would participate. He also called on legislators to "topple the bureaucracy" that hinders initiatives which attempt to mitigate poverty in Panama.

The high-level official said that the concerted effort "was the only way for the country to improve and progress under the democratic government."

Ford criticized the people who are apathetic just because there are problems. He said that poverty is a problem but no concrete solutions have been presented to solve this problem. The planning and economic policy minister then proceeded to list the government's efforts to solve one of the main elements of poverty: unemployment.

He stressed that the Social Emergency Fund Program had already approved 53 concrete community programs that will cost the twenty million balboas that had been initially earmarked for this purpose. Ford added that this program will generate jobs and will leave a permanent structure in the communities which are program beneficiaries. Ford added that, as he had requested, 40 percent of the workforce to be used in the programs will be selected from the beneficiary communities. He said: "The three million balboas that the government gave to the civic organizations generated 6,900 jobs by March 1990."

Minister Ford also said that, in addition to the government's attention to El Chorrillo victims, the executive branch is studying the possibility of assigning 1.25 million balboas to give jobs to the heads of household of the families that were victims of the December invasion.

Concerning unemployment in Colon, the planning minister said that a commission has been assigned to attack the problem of poverty on all its fronts in the Atlantic sector.

Ford also declared that the Savings Trust has one million balboas in credit to be given to small and medium-sized firms. This action will surely contribute to the generation of jobs, he said.

In conclusion, Minister Ford announced that the government is trying to take seven million from the 108 million balboas assigned to the banking sector to make it available to those interested in developing small and medium-sized firms that generate jobs. He clearly specified that the loans will only be given to honest and truly hard-working people who are interested in the country's development.

Government Dismisses Workers, Union Leaders

PA1212200190 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 12 Dec 90 pp A-1, A-2

[Report by Claudio Herrrera J.]

[Text] Yesterday the national government dismissed 19 IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] union leaders, including Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of Sitirhe [Union of IRHE Workers], and more than a dozen members of the Sitintel [Union of Workers of the National Telecommunications Institute] Directorate. Meanwhile, the National Coordinating Board for the Right to Life decided to stage a peaceful protest in front of the U.S. Embassy and a march that will end at the Legislative Assembly.

The Coordinating Board, which gathers together state and private unions, made this announcement via its spokesman after an urgent general meeting at the headquarters of the Journalists Union of Panama that began yesterday morning and ended at about 2200.

The protest, described as a "picket," will take place today at 1500 in front of the U.S. diplomatic mission. The march will take place at 1600 on 13 December and will proceed from Porras Square to the Legislative Assembly.

These two actions are being implemented to protest against the measures adopted by the national government, which the Coordinating Board attributes to IMF and World Bank pressure to apply a new economic plan in this country.

The spokesman ruled out a national sit-down strike, as announced by Isaac Rodriguez, who was dismissed. He added that the march is to reject draft bill No. 55, which seeks to dismiss all public employees and union leaders who participated in the organization and implementation of the national strike on 5 December.

Rodriguez, who is a member of the Coordinating Board, sued Second Vice President Arias Calderon for slander on 10 December.

Besides Rodriguez, other dismissed union leaders are Oran Dario Miranda, oversight secretary; Ruben Guevara, deputy education, culture, and sports secretary; and Robustiano Castro, finance secretary. Also dismissed were 15 union representatives in various IRHE regions and Organization Secretary Rolando Winter.

The dismissals, which coincided with the approval in the first debate of draft bill No. 55, "by which measures are adopted to protect democracy and constitutional order," also affected Sitintel Secretary General Rolando Miller.

The bill, which is praised by progovernment legislators but rejected by union leaders, aims to annul the appointment of public servants who participated in the organization of or called for a national strike held on 5 December.

As for Sitintel: Press and Propaganda Secretary Alberto Luis Cobos; Organization Secretary Augusto Garcia; Defense Deputy Secretary Marco Levi; Defense Secretary Yito Henry; and Finance Secretary Alfonso Chamber were also dismissed.

Other employees dismissed at Intel [National Telecommunications Institute] include Women'a Affairs Secretary Mireya de Rodriguez; Deputy Finance Secretary Adan Lucero; and Deputy Social Welfare Secretary Regino Romero.

The dismissals also reached leaders of the IDAAN [National Water and Sanitation Institute] Employee Association, which does not have legal status and is not a union, through the dismissal of its leader, who is surnamed Prado.

Isaac Rodriguez reported that he has learned of the existence of a preliminary list of 450 dismissals nationwide, which includes technicians, laborers, professionals, and even section heads who refused to turn in lists of possible dismissals.

Hector Aleman, secretary general of the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees (Fenasep), has said that the dismissals are being ordered before a draft bill aiming to do just that is approved.

Aleman reported that, besides IRHE, 60 other employees had been dismissed as of the evening of 10 December. Five were dismissed at IDAAN and 25 others are expected.

Fenasep had reported that the government dismissed more than 20,000 workers from the public sector. Aleman pointed out that this measure has affected the leadership of 21 of Fenasep's member organizations.

Marches To Challenge Dismissals

PA1212170590 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1603 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] workers began a sit-down strike at their work centers this morning. Many of these centers, such as those located in San Miguelito, Carrasquilla, the Torremolinos Shopping Center, and others, are paralyzed because the workers are idle.

Meanwhile, a news conference held by the National Coordinating Board for the Right to Life, which called the 5 December strike, ended just moments ago. It was announced at the news conference that beginning tomorrow there will be a number of marches toward the Legislative Assembly, along with protest actions to reject the dismissal of more than 450 employees from IRHE and other institutions. Representatives of state and private unions, including Conato [National Council of Organized Workers] and CTRP [Confederation of Workers of the Republic of Panama], participated in the news conference.

We repeat: IRHE workers, along with the other unions that called the 5 December strike, have announced that beginning tomorrow there will be marches toward the Legislative Assembly and protest actions against the dismissal of more than 450 employees.

Meanwhile, the workers told RPC Radio that the IRHE General Directorate has occupied Sitirhe [Union of IRHE Workers] headquarters at the Hatillo Building. They added that the Sitirhe offices were locked up with all its documents and materials inside. The locks were changed, and a policeman has been permanently posted outside. In addition, it appears that virtually all members of Sitirhe's Board of Directors were among those who were dismissed. Thus, they have no access to the Sitirhe offices, and even if they did, they could not enter because the locks were replaced.

IRHE Workers Announce Sit-Down Strike

PA1212131990 Panama City Circuito RPC Radio in Spanish 1251 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Isaac Rodriguez, secretary general of the Union of Workers for the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification, has announced a sit-down strike throughout the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] work centers effective today. Rodriguez has strongly rejected President Guillermo Endara's arbitrary decision to dismiss more than 450 IRHE workers.

The labor leader warned that the workers will paralyze indefinitely all of the collection and maintenance operations until all of the workers, who were dismissed, get their jobs back and the labor leadership is contacted about serious negotiations.

Rodriguez emphasized that the government should not think that the workers have been defeated by a measure, which he termed as fascist, adding that the struggle for the recognition of their rights has barely begun.

Break Through Cordon, Enter Assembly

PA1212231590 Panama City Radio KW Continente in Spanish 2215 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Report by correspondent Roberto Cubilla from the Legislative Palace in Panama City—live]

[Text] The participants of a demonstration that started at the IRHE [Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification] workers union headquarters has broken through the iron gate outside the Legislative Palace after breaking through the security guard cordon.

The demonstrators burst into the building shouting anti-U.S. and antigovernment slogans and demanding the payment of the 13th-month bonus. They have installed themselves in the Assembly's gallery. Assembly President Alonso Fernandez Guardia ordered a recess minutes later, after a minority report was presented on bill No. 50, which orders the dismissal of all public employees who participated in the 5 December strike.

Government Workers Ask Police Not To Stage Coup

PA1212220090 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1916 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Panama City, 12 Dec (ACAN - EFE)—Panamanian Government employees today asked the country's soldiers and policemen not to stage a coup tomorrow because they are going to march to protest mass dismissals and do not want the government to again accuse them of having ties with coupist elements.

Isaac Rodriguez, a labor leader who was fired by the government from his job in the Institute of Hydraulic Resources and Electrification [IRHE] and who has been accused of having links with the policemen's rebellion defeated last week by U.S. troops, said during a news conference today: "If anyone is planning a coup, please do not try it tomorrow."

Referring to officers who are under arrest for leading the rebellion headed by Colonel Eduardo Herrera, Rodriguez said: "We ask the government to keep a close watch on the famous coupist units so that they do not escape tomorrow because our labor demonstration will be peaceful."

Approximately 400 government labor leaders and employees have been dismissed in recent days because the general strike they held on 5 December was, according to the government, part of a coup attempt by Herrera.

Rodriguez, who lived in exile in Spain in 1989 for having directed labor protests against the regime of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, has reiterated that the government's charges against him are false and that the movement of state employees is strictly a labor movement. According to Rodriguez, tomorrow's demonstration will be large and its only objective is to demand the rehiring of the dismissed employees.

Other labor union leaders have called for protest demonstrations today in front of the U.S. Embassy in this capital. They are describing the embassy as "the sponsor" of the Panamanian Government headed by Guillermo Endara.

This morning there were partial strikes in some state offices because of the government measures against the labor leaders. The labor leaders have described those measures as "fascist."

After the U.S. troops crushed the rebellion by 100 policemen, President Endara sent the Legislative Assembly a bill calling for the elimination of "labor privileges" and other labor protection regulations in order to permit the dismissals. The bill is being studied at the Assembly, but it is being implemented already because it will have a "retroactive effect," according to Guillermo Ford, second vice president and economy minister.

The labor union leaders have charged that several labor union headquarters have been closed by the government and policemen will not allow the employees to enter.

While the news conference was going on, some 300 persons were demonstrating in front of the U.S. Embassy in Panama to demand payment of $36,000 for each of the 20,000 families that were negatively affected by the U.S. invasion of 20 December 1989.

Meanwhile, university students closed one of this capital's most important avenues to commemorate the nationalist struggle of 1947 that resulted in the rejection of a Panamanian-U.S. treaty on the leasing of military bases. The treaty has been viewed as disadvantageous for Panama.

Herrera Discusses Takeover of Police Station

PA1212234490 Panama City EL PERIODICO in Spanish 12 Dec 90 p 6

[Interview with Retired Colonel Eduardo Herrera by DIARIO 16 reporter Gervasio Sanchez of Madrid, Spain; place and date not given]

[Text] [Sanchez] The government of President Guillermo Endara claims that the coup attempt was connected to the labor strike. Was there any civilian or labor union support for the movement you led?

[Herrera] That is false. There was no coup attempt. When Ramon Lima, the deputy minister of government and justice, arrived, I explained to him that the policemen were carrying out a movement to press for demands. The policemen who were with me gave him a document listing demands.

[Sanchez] Some people have said the movement was a farce promoted by the North Americans to prove to President Endara that his government is very weak and to pressure him into signing the mutual support treaty. You are seen as a person who is being used by the North Americans. What do you say about that?

[Herrera] The North Americans have never been involved in this movement. It was organized by subordinate officers and the troops. They are tired of the way they are being treated.

[Sanchez] What role did the North Americans play in this crisis?

[Herrera] Their initial role was to avoid bloodshed, but in the end, the Panamanian Government requested their intervention. The dialogue with the North Americans was always sincere.

[Sanchez] It was said that they were acting as mediators but they ended up resolving the crisis. Why was it handled that way?

[Herrera] President Endara asked them to intervene. I think that the intervention has given the United States a bad image, but Panama's image is worse.

[Sanchez] You spoke with U.S. Colonel James Steel. Did you reach an agreement with him? Can you give details on what you discussed with him?

[Herrera] He told me that he had been ordered to intervene and avoid bloodshed. There was not going to be any bloodshed because I had ordered the policemen to carry their rifles on their backs and unload their cartridges for the march to the Legislative Assembly.

[Sanchez] The Public Force vanished from the area. Should this be interpreted as a sign of agreement with your movement?

[Herrera] As soon as the various Public Force units realized that ours was a movement to make our demands known, the support came from the rank and file as well as from the lower-ranking officers. They are the ones most severely hit by the crisis in our country.

[Sanchez] The deputy government minister had left for the Presidential Palace to meet with President Endara to hand him the list of demands. Why did you decide to leave the police station and head for the Legislative Assembly?

[Herrera] Because he was taking too long, and the troops were uneasy. We wanted to meet with Legislative Assembly President Alonso Fernandez, whom I trusted. We wanted to find a solution and surrender.

[Sanchez] Did Col. Steele promise that none of you would be arrested?

[Herrera] He never promised that. He wanted to avoid any bloodshed.

[Sanchez] You could have been freed in a matter of days. Why did you escape from jail? Why did you agree to enter the helicopter and escape from the penitentiary where you had been confined?

[Herrera] After being rescued, the policemen asked me to serve as mediator in this conflict. It would have been dishonest for me to have turned them down. I sacrificed my alleged freedom in an attempt to help the men that I had led in the past few months and who have been my friends for the past 25 years of my military career.

[Sanchez] Do you feel betrayed by anyone?

[Herrera] I do not feel betrayed by anyone. I believe that the government will have to reflect on this situation. Not only laborers and peasants are discontent, but so are the men who risk their lives everyday for miserable salaries. These men are rejected by the community because of the bad leaders they had in the past three years.

[Sanchez] Who do you think emerged stronger from this crisis? The Panamanian Government, the United States, or you?

[Herrera] I believe nobody has. A new situation has developed that makes us all reflect. The government must meet more demands of the low-income classes. The United States must understand that it is tarnishing its image every time it intervenes in a country. I continue to support just causes. I struggled against Noriega's dictatorship. I was exiled for 12 years and risked my life and that of my family because there is no true democracy or justice in Panama.

Several Radios Receive Alleged Coupists' Calls

PA1312012790 Panama City EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 12 Dec 90 pp 30, 29

[Report by Lionel Blaisdell]

[Text] Authorities have attached little importance to reports from morning radio announcers who received calls from someone who identified himself as Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan. Some local stations reported that the caller said he would begin attacks against President Guillermo Endara's democratic government with help from Panamanian, Guatemalan, and Colombian guerrillas.

Radio Ancon Manager Ramon Jimenez told EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE that he received a call from someone who disguised his voice but who sounded very similar to Eliecer Gaytan. The caller told him he had 250 armed guerrillas in the Chorcha plateau in the Chiriqui Province, 450 km west of Panama City.

Jimenez said that "these men follow orders from a Captain Nino, who was born in Chiriqui of Italian descendants and who has support from Guatemalans, Colombians, and Panamanians."

Jimenez added that the alleged Asuncion Eliecer Gaytan told him that he would begin attacks this weekend in Chorrera, Santiago, Chiriqui, and even in the capital but did not specify what kind of fights or possible clashes.

Radio Ancon's Jimenez also said that he met with Government and Justice Minister Ricardo Arias Calderon and told him about the telephone call.

Jimenez said that Gaytan made the supposed call to Radio Ancon at 0745 hours on 11 December.

According to Manuel Noriega's former personal security chief, "his men had already established 'contacts,' without specifying what kind, with members of the Panamanian police." A source reported that there is only one link, although not direct, to the failed police coup attempt of 5 December.

On their part, other radio commentators said they had received calls similar to the one received by Ramon Jimenez from a person who identified himself as Eliecer Gaytan.

In their respective newscasts, Omayra Correa and Aneldo Arosemena reported receiving calls similar to the one received at Radio Ancon.

Local authorities questioned by EL DIARIO INDEPENDIENTE gave little importance—for the time being—to the aforementioned radio commentators' reports.

Chiriqui Officials on Moreno Role in Coup Attempt

PA1212135890 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 10 Dec 90 p 40A

[Article by Elkilia Santos]

[Text] Chiriqui Province authorities have proven the participation of Lieutenant Ricardo Herrera and Captain Carlos Ivan Moreno in the attempt to have the Chiriqui barracks join the coup attempt led by Colonel Eduardo Herrera, retired.

This information is based on statements received by the Attorney General's Office, according to which Sergeant Morales, who was Col. Herrera's bodyguard on the day of the coup, called the officer in charge of the Chiriqui barracks on behalf of Col. Herrera and told him to take over the barracks and arrest Captain Milton Castillo, commander of the Chiriqui zone.

Subsequently, the officer in charge was given the telephone number to an office at the Ancon barracks, where he was supposed to call Captain Tomas Betegon, who was commander of the Puerto Armuelles Detachment before the 20 December invasion and is currently chief of communications for the Public Force.

When Betegon was called, he told the Chiriqui Public Force members that "Colonel Herrera had taken over the barracks and he wanted them to join the movement." Betegon then gave them the telephone number where Herrera could be reached (32-5593), and he told them: "Call this number, and Herrera's bodyguard will answer. Col. Herrera is there and wants to speak to you."

The officer telephoned Dr. Asvat and informed him of what had happened.

Later, Captain Carlos Cerezo, who was working at the Benjamin Ruiz Academy in Rio Hato before the invasion and on 5 December was working in the planning section of the National Police, telephoned a lieutenant in Chiriqui: "Are you aware of the situation? Col. Herrera and his people have overpowered us and taken over the police installations, and we have joined his movement."

Cerezo added that the Herrera movement "had the support of the troops. You know that the troops have suffered the most, and we will go ahead with this action. I want you to be clear about this situation and speak to the men."

Cerezo told them that "Martirio (Lt. Ricardo Herrera, who was second in command of the former Paz Battalion and the last officer to surrender in Chiriqui after 20 December) is going to Chiriqui to take charge of the situation in the barracks, and he is accompanied by other men."

At 0400 on 5 December, Capt. Carlos Ivan Moreno, who was released from Modelo Prison where he was being held prisoner, called the chief of the Chiriqui police zone and ordered the arrest of Captain Milton Castillo and three other officers. He told them that Lt. Herrera was on his way to Chiriqui and would be there later to take charge of the situation.

Meanwhile, Capt. Castillo prepared to receive the rebels, but they never showed up.

Armed Troops Sighted in Cerro Azul; Shots Heard

PA1312024590 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2349 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Pacora Corrigiemento representative Luis Alberto Morales has said that armed groups have been detected in the area of Cerro Azul. Here is his statement:

[Begin Morales recording] We were investigating reports and personally visited the area known as Cerro Jefe in Cerro Azul along with members of the Public Force. We heard an exchange of fire, which lasted until 0330. We concluded that it was a group of approximately 30 people fully equipped with weapons more powerful than those used by the Public Force members. We had to request reinforcements from the Tocumen Base to rescue us. At approximately 0330 we managed to descend the mountains.

The following day, a group of members of the Public Force carried out an inspection and saw footprints of approximately 200 people in the mountains, as well as empty cartridges. There were traces of footsteps on the grass as well.

The Cerro Azul community board has been receiving reports from various residents in that area on the presence of armed groups. Yesterday, for example, we asked a member of the community board to inspect the area. He reported that at approximately at 1800 he saw more than 30 people who were fully equipped and carrying two rifles each, one on their backs and one in their hands. They were wearing khaki uniforms.

It is presumed that Captain Eliecer Gaytan and Mr. Miranda could be heading this guerrilla group. [end recording]

Brazil

Defendant Confesses to Murder of Environmentalist

PY1212203090 Madrid EFE in English 2022 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Xapuri, Brazil Dec 12 (EFE)—One of the men accused of killing renowned Amazonian environmentist Chico Mendes Wednesday [12 December] confessed to the crime on the first day of the murder trial in a remote Brazilian town.

Darci Alves da Silva Pereira, 23, confessed to gunning down Mendes on December 22, 1988 in the rubber tapper's tiny makeshift hut in the Amazon jungle town of Xapuri located in the state of Acre, 2,400 km northwest of Rio de Janeiro.

The confession surprised dozens of rubber tappers, ecologists and foreign journalists who have flocked to Xapuri for the trial, because Da Silva has previously denied any part in the murder. Observers said they thought the confession was a tactic prepared by the defense to help the case of rancher Darli Alves da Silva Pereira, Darci's father, who is accused of ordering the murder. The landowner is allegedly responsible for other murders in the state of Acre.

Wealthy landowners and cattle ranchers have reportedly hired gunmen to kill landless peasants and rubber tappers in their bid to control the resource-rich forest.

Mendes' struggle to stop the rainforests being razed by ranchers brought him international fame, while his brutal death highlighted the plight of the threatened jungle.

Developers destroying large tracts of the Amazon are also displacing huge numbers of peasant farmers in a country with an estimated 12 million landless poor. Scientists say wiping out the rainforest contributes to global warming, also know as the "Greenhouse Effect."

Prosecutor Marcio Thomaz Bastos said Tuesday that the current trail would show the world that "justice exists in the Amazon jungle." He said the Da Silvas' eventual conviction would lead to the arrests and trials of others involved in Mendes' murder.

Bastos added that in the past 20 years 1,200 peasants and rural workers were assassinated in Amazon land conflicts, but only seven gunmen were convicted of murder—none of them the landowners who contracted the killers.

Presetting of Salaries Rejected, Bonus Proposed

PY1212200590 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Dec 90 (Economy Section) p 1

[Excerpt] Brasilia—Yesterday the government answered the suggestions presented last week by workers and businessmen about a national accord. In a five-page document, the government proposed paying a three-percent emergency bonus in January to private sector workers who receive up to 10 minimum wages, and agreed to discuss the payment of its debt with the private sector and the participation of workers in the profits of the companies. The government rejected the idea of presetting prices and salaries, and conditioned the reduction of interest rates to the approval of amendments to the Constitution. [passage omitted]

Freeze on Small Savings Accounts Lifted

PY1212193190 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0930 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] As of today the government will release those new cruzados held at the Central Bank that belong to small investors, elderly people, and the guaranteed housing purchase fund [fundo de garantia para compra da casa propria]. This information was confirmed by Marcos Caramuru, the Economy Ministry social communications secretary.

The Economy Ministry has still not decided on the ceiling for these saving accounts. Today it will submit the corresponding provisional measure for President Fernando Collor's approval. [passage omitted]

Curitiba Oil Refinery Closed for Polluting Air

PY0912205090 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2200 GMT 7 Dec 90

[Summary] A Parana State court has shut down a lubricating oil refinery that has been polluting the air. The company was warned several times, but did not heed the warnings. The refinery is in Colombo, a metropolitan district of the city of Curitiba. This plant recycles 26,000 liters of lubricating oil each day, releasing polluting and bad-smelling substances into the air.

Iron, Steel Production Drops by 25 Percent

PY0912192290 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 0900 GMT 8 Dec 90

[Summary] On 7 December, National Mines and Ironworks Secretary Luis Andre Rico Vecente confirmed that Brazil's iron and steel production declined 25 percent in 1990. According to Rico Vicente, there has been a decline in domestic demand and the only option left is to increase exports. It is expected that 50 percent of Brazil's iron and steel production will be sold abroad in 1991.

Chile

Armed Man Breaks Into U.S. Consulate in Santiago

PY1212130290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Early this morning, exactly three tension-filled hours were experienced inside and around the U.S.

Consulate on Mercedes Street across from Parque Forestal Square when a man wielding a revolver entered the diplomatic building and overpowered three security guards, holding them hostage for quite a while.

The events began early this morning at 0130 [0430 GMT] when a man—whose identity is being kept strictly secret for the moment—entered the consulate building and caught three security guards by surprise; the guards were inside a bullet-proof booth next to the main gate and vehicle access.

The man disarmed the three security guards and said he would hold them hostage until U.S. Ambassador to Chile Charles Gillespie came to the booth.

Continuously wielding his gun, the unknown assailant maintained the delicate situation for over half an hour, when he finally released one of the security guards to go find the ambassador. The distressed guard went, however, to the 1st Carabineros Precinct, where he reported the situation.

The police immediately began an operation involving a large contingent of the Special Police Operations Group, GOPE, whose men surrounded the area and deployed sharpshooters over a wide area in which traffic and pedestrians were restricted.

Noticing that the consulate building had been surrounded by police, the so far unknown assailant decided to release the other two guards while he remained inside the building, announcing that he would commit suicide if Ambassador Gillespie did not come. He confirmed this by shooting in the air once.

Police specializing in this type of operation immediately held a brief conversation with the man until he was finally talked into surrendering to the police, who told him they would cooperate with him in his desperate attempt to contact Ambassador Gillespie.

As soon as the man was in the hands of the Carabineros, he was taken to the offices of the 1st Carabineros Precinct, where he remains at this moment. He has made many remarks that, logically, have not yet been disclosed, but are already known by the U.S. ambassador.

This situation, which remained tense, we repeat, from 0130 until 0430 this morning, caused real excitement in the entire area.

It is expected that the police and, of course, the diplomatic mission will give a public explanation of this strange situation at any moment.

[Madrid EFE in Spanish at 1130 GMT on 12 December in a similar report adds: "Police sources have leaked that the assailant was a civilian employee of the Army Intelligence Department (DINE), an organization made up of former agents of the dissolved National Intelligence Center (CNI), the secret police for the former military regime."]

Police Take Gunman Into Custody

PY1212181490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpts] The man who early this morning surreptitiously entered the U.S. Consulate in the Parque Forestal sector and left it shortly after 0430 [0730 GMT] was a civilian employee of the Army Intelligence Department, DINE. He was identified as Armando Malagueno Bolbaran. [passage omitted]

According to initial background information from the police, the man apparently felt his life was threatened and entered the consulate for protection. [passage omitted]

The man, Armando Malagueno Bolbaran, left the consulate at 0430 this morning and was taken to a police precinct where it was confirmed that he was completely inebriated. [passage omitted]

General Oscar Tapia, chief of the Carabineros metropolitan zone, has said that the man who entered the North American Consulate is an Army civilian employee and he was in an abnormal condition. Gen. Tapia said this at the end of a Interior Security Committee meeting at La Moneda Palace. Asked about the implications of this incident, Gen. Tapia said a man in an abnormal condition entered the building; there is nothing else to add, there are no other implications.

Gen. Tapia added that, being an Army civilian employee, it is up to this institution to place him at the disposal of the courts. He added that he did not believe the man intended to seek asylum, taking into account the man's condition.

In conclusion, Gen. Tapia said there is no information that this person is linked to a current issue such as La Cutufa [illegal financial organization].

Army Issues Communique on Incident

PY1312000290 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] The Army leadership has issued the following communique:

Regarding the incident that took place at dawn today, when an Army employee surreptitiously entered the U.S. Consulate, the Army Press Department hereby reports that:

1. The employee involved in the incident is Guillermo Alban Armando Malagueno Bolbaran, a civilian security expert who joined the Army Intelligence Department in February 1990.

2. According to information received, Malagueno was intoxicated when he perpetrated this impertinent act and was trying to win a bet with another individual over the vulnerability of the consulate premises.

3. The Chilean Army deeply regrets this incident and informs the public that on orders of its commander in chief, today the mentioned civilian employee was dismissed from the Army and placed at the disposal of the corresponding court.

Iraqi Diplomat: 'Other Party' Must Solve Crisis

PY1212230790 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Concurrent Iraqi Ambassador Taha Yassin al-Basri has said that it is not only up to his government but also up to the other party to solve the Persian Gulf crisis. The ambassador chatted briefly with the media after a meeting with Foreign Minister Enrique Silva Cimma, to whom he came to say farewell upon ending his tour in Chile and Buenos Aires.

[Begin Al-Basri recording] It is up to the other party. In Iraq we believe that it will end peacefully. It is not, however, only for us but also for the other party to decide. [end recording]

The Iraqi ambassador added: We are facing a very serious aggression. Foreign forces arrived in our land because they are interested in the oil of the region.

Al-Basri said that Minister Silva Cimma had voiced the hope of the Chilean Government that the conflict will be solved peacefully.

Draft Bill Abolishing Death Penalty Rejected

PY1312000190 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Relay from Congress by Jose Manriquez Contreras]

[Text] During today's session, the Senate insisted on the need to maintain the death penalty to punish 37 different crimes, including some crimes listed in the penal code.

A total of 16 senators voted against and 24 in favor of the joint commission's report recommending the abolition of the death penalty for most crimes, maintaining it only in cases listed in the military code in times of war.

The National Renewal Party [RN], the Independent Democratic Union [UDI], and all the government appointed senators voted in favor of the death penalty. Ricardo Martin [government appointed senator] had voted in favor of abolishing the death penalty but finally decided to vote in favor of maintaining it.

The Senate's decision might prompt the government to insist that the Chamber of Deputies approve it, which means it will need two-thirds of the votes to annul the Senate's decision. This will not be possible if the RN and UDI do not accept the proposal.

Justice Minister Francisco Cumplido, who attended the Senate session, confirmed that the government will not take this last option which means that Chile will not become one the countries that have abolished the death penalty.

In sum, 37 of the 52 crimes that existed before the government submitted the draft bill abolishing the death penalty will continue to be liable to the death penalty.

Army Officers Questioned in La Catufa Case

Active Duty Officer Arrested

PY1212155690 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1000 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Marcos Libedinsky, the special judge investigating the illegal financial firm La Cutufa, left four retired Army colonels and an active duty lieutenant colonel under arrest and incommunicado after interrogating them in his office.

The four retired officers are being held at the former Santiago Prison and the commander [as heard] is being held at a military unit as a result of an arrest warrant issued by the judge on 7 December.

The detainees are retired Colonels Geronimo Pantoja Henriquez, former deputy director of DINA [National Intelligence Directorate] and then CNI [National Intelligence Center], Jaime Rowe del Rio, Sergio Silva Blanco, and Enrique Cowell Mansilla, and Commander Gerardo Paredes Paredes, who is on active duty. [passage omitted]

Army: Arrested Officers All Retired

PY1212163290 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Army Communications Department chief Colonel Cesar Streitt has stressed that officer Gerardo Paredes Paredes, who is currently being held for his involvement in the La Cutufa case, is not on active duty as the press has reported. Streitt said action on Paredes' retirement from the Army has been going on for a couple of months.

The Army Communications Department chief made these remarks this morning when the press asked him about the Army's opinion of Judge Marcos Libedinsky's decision to have Paredes and three [as heard] other former officers linked with the clandestine financial firm detained and held incommunicado.

[Begin recording] [Streitt] We will issue a communique on this later, but, at any rate, they are officers who have already retired. They do not belong to the institution.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Streitt] No. That officer has retired. His discharge from the Army is currently being processed, but it has already been granted. At this moment, he is retired.

[Reporter] Since when [words indistinct]?

[Streitt] About two months ago, or something of the sort. [end recording]

Retired Army Officer Indicted

PY1312001490 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 2200 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Excerpt] Special Judge Marcos Libedinsky has indicted retired Army Brigadier Jaime Lucares Robledo for his involvement in the case of the illegal La Cutufa financial enterprise. Libedinsky has been hearing the case for the past month and a half.

Lucares was summoned once again to testify by Libedinsky, who informed him about the court decision and sent him to the former Santiago Prison under arrest. [passage omitted]

Communist Youth Wants Debate on Army Corruption

PY1212194490 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] The Communist Youth has pointed out the necessity of holding a nationwide debate on Army corruption. The Communist Youth noted in a communique that the case of the illegal La Cutufa financial firm has revealed events that have been taking place in the Army for the past 17 years.

The Communist Youth states that the seriousness of these events, in which even more officers are apparently involved, demonstrates the need to purge this institution to reestablish the honor that has been lost. The Communist Youth also indicated that communist leaders must participate in this nationwide debate as 30,000 youths are called up for compulsory military service each year.

In conclusion, the Communist Youth said that they have been discriminated against by Defense Minister Patricio Rojas, who has still not answered the group's request to meet with him.

Colombia

Seven Policemen Killed; 4 Injured in Medellin

PA1312133690 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1210 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Medellin—Four policemen who were seriously injured last night when a dynamite charge exploded near a police truck are recovering at a local hospital. Seven other policemen were killed. The dead will be taken to their hometowns for burial, according to Colonel Jorge Ferrero Echeverri, the metropolitan police commander of Valle de Aburra.

The dead were identified as Diego Garzon Gomez, Jose Marina Villa Cardona, Glicerio Martinez Decerra, Hermenegildo Moreno Palacios, Abner de Vasquez Quinones, Wilson Zamora Olabe, and Jose Ochoa. The injured men are: Luis Martinez Ramirez, Luis Giraldo Cardona, Octavio Sanchez Leyton, and Jorge Reyes.

Col. Ferrero said the attack occurred when unidentified terrorists exploded a charge near a Mercedes-Benz truck in the vicinity of 65th Avenue and 90th Street in the Alfonso Lopez neighborhood. These policemen were on their way to relieve other policemen who were on routine guard duty in Medellin.

Army Takes Rebel Radio Station; 30 Casualties

PA1312045290 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0246 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Bogota, 12 Dec (NOTIMEX)—The Colombian Army today announced it had taken over clandestine radio station Patria Libre and inflicted a casualty toll of more than 30 among the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia [FARC] rebels in an attack on "Casa Verde" (FARC general headquarters). Commander General Jorge Humberto Correa Castaneda announced that in four days of fighting in the Uribe-Meta region (220 km southeast of Bogota), four FARC elite troops camps have been dismantled.

Meanwhile, in a televised interview, top FARC leader Manuel Marulanda "Tirofijo" acknowledged that the Army occupied the area where "Casa Verde" is located, "but the jungle is very large and we are still here." He added that the hope for peace now is that President Cesar Gaviria will order a stop to the attack "to sit down to negotiate an agreement."

In addition, the army admitted today that one military helicopter was downed by FARC guerrillas. This is the third helicopter downed by the rebels since Sunday, 9 December, when the Army began its large-scale attack against the guerrilla stronghold known as "Casa Verde."

Extraditables Seek Protection Under Decree Changes

PA1212202890 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 2 in Spanish 1739 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] Extraditable Carlos Gomez Zapata, a fugitive of justice, has turned himself in. This is the most outstanding of the cases that have come about so far because of the government decree which reduces penalties for drug traffickers.

Gomez' extradition was first ordered in April 1989; however, he escaped from a Barranquilla hospital in October 1989 with the complicity of Army sub-officer Carlos Carrillo, alias Caballo Loco. By turning himself in, Gomez Zapata will not be extradited, and a public order judge will hear his confession to open a trial in Colombia.

In a letter to President Gaviria, the Extraditables already under detention at La Picota prison have asked that they be tried in Colombia. They hope that the announced modifications to Decree 2047 will protect them; however, this possibility seems to have been ruled out,

according to the text of a decree amendment that will be issued within the next 24 hours. The government insists that the benefits are for those who turn themselves in, not for those who are arrested.

The decree will still stipulate that voluntary confession is a condition for reduced sentencing. It will also have more explanations than modifications, so that the Extraditables may turn themselves in without fear of long prison terms, extradition, or danger to their lives. This seems to be the way the Extraditables have understood it, as they announced in their last communique that they would be willing to submit themselves to the modified Decree 2047.

Paraguay

Rodriguez: Land Seizures Deter Foreign Capital

PY1212180790 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 8 Dec 90 p 12

[Text] President Andres Rodriguez this morning, at the end of his meeting with the bishops who attended the main mass in the city of Caacupe, said: "We share the same good intentions as the Catholic Church."

Rodriguez said: "During this meeting we expressed our determination to join efforts to achieve the greatness of the nation so that all Paraguayans may enjoy prosperous and dignified lives."

Commenting on the sermon delivered by Caacupe Bishop Demetrio Aquino, President Rodriguez said: "We agree with Monsignor Aquino. More jobs are needed for our youths. We have all contributed a little to the loss of confidence in Paraguay that is registered abroad."

He added: "The main reason for this loss of confidence is the invasion of private properties. Paraguay has lost a considerable amount of credibility as a result of these incidents—that is, these actions have discouraged foreign investments. We knew that friendly countries were interested in investing in our country, which is tantamount to creating new job sources for our people, but the land occupations has discouraged these investments."

Rodriguez stated: "Those who invade private properties are expressing a just demand, but this is not the way to achieve their goal. We deeply regret that they use this method because it has caused great harm to our country."

"In view of this, and complying with what has been requested by some countries, we will soon sign agreements to guarantee and safeguard capital and investments in Paraguay."

"Congress must issue laws that truly guarantee and safeguard foreign investments."

Asked about the agreements to be signed with Germany and the UK, through which investments will be guaranteed in Paraguay, and asked if such agreements violate our country's sovereignty, Rodriguez said: "Not at all. They have every right to invest their capital wherever they want and to demand the necessary safeguards."

Rodriguez on Military Involvement in Politics

PY1212185990 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 11 Dec 90 p 8

[Excerpt] President Rodriguez said yesterday that "military officers cannot engage in political debates."

He said, however, that "no one can stop the military from having a political ideology, or from supporting the political party they like best." General Rodriguez made this statement at the end of a ceremony to inaugurate Radio Nacional del Paraguay's new studios. President Rodriguez also mentioned the government's support for Paraguayan media. He said the media must try to serve the community with true information and to educate the people to help promote culture.

Regarding the study and approval of the new labor code, which was demanded by the United States as a condition for lifting economic sanctions against Paraguay, President Rodriguez said he is not sure the study will be completed. Rodriguez said: "I do not know when this study will be completed; I believe it will be soon. If this cannot be done, we may have to wait until the next legislative period." [passage omitted]

Souto Criticizes Political 'Demagoguery'

PY1212221090 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 12 Dec 90 p 4

[Text] Defense Minister Angel Juan Souto Hernandez has admitted the existence of antimilitaristic trends. He also noted that demagogic and populist ideas are still prevalent and that these attitudes do not help the democratization process under way in the country. The defense minister thereby came out in support of several military chiefs who have criticized political sectors over the last few days.

Defense Minister Souto made this statement to the press yesterday after awarding the Order of Military Merit in the grade of "Grand Officer" to Bolivian Defense Attache Carlos Casso Michel for "important service to the Paraguayan Armed Forces."

After expressing his full agreement with the criticism military chiefs have made against some political sectors, Souto Hernandez said: "We sincerely believe that we are not helping the democratization process as long as these demagogic and populist ideas prevail. We believe that Paraguay has made great efforts to democratize the country in the last two years. We have not, however, won the battle yet. This is going to be a long battle; we have to fight many people and many ideas so that the country may truly live in democracy."

He added: "I believe the Armed Forces have set an example on how to live in democracy, but this example

has been not followed by everyone. This is what worries the Armed Forces. The Armed Forces should not, however, be the only group concerned; this situation should concern all Paraguayans, some of whom sometimes listen to the people who are not helping this process. This is what the Armed Forces are saying."

Souto said: "We want Paraguay to live in peace, to offer conditions under which everyone may work in peace, so foreign investors will bring their capital to create more job opportunities and eliminate unemployment. There are people, however, who do not support us."

After restating his criticism of demagoguery and populism, Defense Minister Souto said: "This is an issue that worries us. This is why the Armed Forces meddle in some issues that are not their concern. We are forced to do it, however, because we are all citizens, we are all Paraguayans, and we all hope for the well-being of our fatherland."

Deputies Urged To Reject Foreign Pressures

PY1212140690 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 7 Dec 90 p 3

[Excerpt] Deputy Antonio Salum Flecha, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Foreign Relations Committee, asked his colleagues yesterday "not to accept pressure from abroad" during study of the Labor Code reform bill. Thus, the legislator rejected a hasty study of this new law with the goal of being included in the Generalized System of Preferences with the United States, which has approbated this new law.

Salum Flecha made these remarks during a regular Chamber of Deputies session. The politician emphasized that it is important for the next Labor Code to be the result of a debate between interested sectors and experts in labor legislation.

"It would be an indignity for us to accept pressures and hastily study a code of this nature," Salum Flecha said.

After a brief debate on this issue, Chamber of Deputies President Jose A. Moreno Ruffinelli decided to review the way this controversial bill is being studied since there are only 13 days left for Congress to conclude its sessions. [passage omitted]

Radio Broadcasts Temporarily Suspended in Pilar

PY1212235090 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 5 Dec 90 p 9

[Excerpt] The National Telecommunications Administration [Antelco] board yesterday decided to "suspend temporarily the broadcasts of ZP12 Radio Carlos Antonio Lopez of Pilar," the capital of Neembucu Department.

The measure that was adopted takes into consideration the "situation in Pilar due to the administrative measures adopted by the Antelco board, the request for an investigation submitted by Lawyer Victor Encina, the economic situation resulting from the withdrawal of advertisements, and the importance given to the high interests of the people of Pilar." The resolution is signed by Colonel Miguel Cirilo Guanes, retired. At the end of the board session yesterday, Guanes explained the reasons for the drastic measure that has prompted the indignation of the people throughout the department because Neembucu is one of the most afflicted departments, and it is now in silence. [passage omitted]

Peru

Minister Offers 'Guarantees' to Foreign Companies

PY1312030090 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 13 Dec 90

[Text] Defense Minister General Jorge Torres Aciego said today that all foreign companies that invest in Peru will have the necessary security and guarantees. He said he will meet with executives from Mobil Oil and other oil companies to arrange the security necessary so that they can carry out their activities.

[Begin recording] [Torres] Subversives carry out selective terrorist attacks using 100 or 200 terrorists against an unarmed camp. The terrorists take advantage of this situation to attack.

[Reporter] [Question indistinct]?

[Torres] You remember that in previous years attacks were carried out against high-tension pylons, often leaving us without electricity. I hope this will not happen again. We are taking the necessary measures to prevent this kind of attack.

[Reporter] The oil companies are afraid of this kind of attack.

[Torres] That is why I am saying that in the next few days I will hold direct talks with oil executives, in this case with Mobil Oil, or any other company that needs protection. We are going to prepare specific plans for each company. We want to know their needs, where they will be, to give them all the necessary protection.

[Reporter] Are you going to provide them with equipment or are the companies [words indistinct]?

[Torres] These are the things we will have to study with them: how they can participate and cooperate and what we can do for them through our experience and personnel.

[Reporter] Are there any plans to change the antisubversive strategy?

[Torres] No, the strategy will not be changed. What happened is that the oil company did not request the protection of the antisubversive forces, the police. This is the result. Had they asked for protection, we would not be regretting what has occurred. [end recording]

Shining Path Commando Kills 3; Prosecutor Wounded

PY1212143090 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0225 GMT 12 Dec 90

[Text] La Mar, Peru, 11 Dec (EFE)—Police in this Andean province, 630 km southeast of Lima, reported today that an alleged Shining Path commando murdered three members of a family because they refused to collaborate with the Maoist group.

Police reported that about 20 alleged Shining Path members attacked the neighborhood of Corcancha and shot Bautista Chauchi, his wife Teofila, and his daughter Lidia, 16, who had refused to collaborate with members of the guerrilla group. The murders occurred on 9 December, but due to inefficient communications between Corcancha and La Mar, 90 km away, the report was received by National Police on 10 December.

Meanwhile, in Cuzco, which borders on La Mar, Armando Zamalloa Alcocer, the Superior Court of Justice prosecutor, was shot by two individuals on a downtown street. When they fled, the individuals shouted "vivas" for the Shining Path and the armed struggle, police have reported. Doctors at Cuzco's General Hospital have reported that Zamalloa has serious wounds; the bullets hit his liver and gall bladder.

The attack against the prosecutor, which police are attributing to a Shining Path commando, occurred just one week after the murder in Lima of Penal Judge Cesar Ruiz Trigoso, the first judicial official to be murdered in 10 years of subversion.

The armed struggle in Peru has caused at least 21,000 deaths and some $20 billion in direct economic losses since 1980, according to the estimates of a Senate committee studying the problem of political violence.

Shining Path Terrorists Attack Power Company

PY1212194590 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1942 GMT 11 Dec 90

[Text] Huaraz, 11 Dec (EFE)—Shining Path terrorists today caused serious damage to the office of the local power company and the vehicle theft prevention department in Huaraz. There were no casualties. This attack follows those carried out yesterday in Lima against the U.S., Soviet, and Japanese Embassies, which caused minor damage. In Huaraz the terrorists planted explosive devices at the door of the two offices with the hammer and sickle bearing the slogan "Long live the armed struggle."

Huaraz is the capital of Ancash Department and it borders the Lima Department in the north. It has not suffered an attack in four months.

The most serious attack in Lima last night was staged against the Monterrey supermarket in Rimac District. It was practically destroyed by fire.

The attacks are believed to be an answer to the recent proposal by President Fujimori to process terrorists through the military courts.

Uruguay

PRELA Office To Close; Cuban Embassy Reduced

PY1312014590 Montevideo EL DIA in Spanish 23 Nov 90 p 1

[Text] Reliable sources have confirmed to EL DIA that the Cuban press agency PRENSA LATINA (PRELA) is withdrawing from Uruguay and that the Cuban Embassy in our country will reduce its personnel.

These measures are a result of the drastic cuts ordered by the government of Fidel Castro due to the economic difficulties that are being experienced in Cuba. These difficulties have become even more pronounced in view of the opening up of East Europe and the changes that have occurred in the Soviet Union.

Both measures will be implemented during December and the first months of 1991.

PRELA opened its Montevideo office in 1985, when Julio Maria Sanguinetti became president.

The Cuban Embassy was officially established during the first months of 1985. Joaquin Mas Martinez was the first Cuban ambassador, but he was relieved from his post after an incident with then Defense Minister Hugo Medina.

Correction to Lawmakers Assess Bush Speech

PY1212173890

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Lawmakers Assess Bush Speech to Congress," published in the 12 December Latin America DAILY REPORT, page 43:

Column two, paragraph three, only sentence make read ...Americo Ricaldoni (FB) [Batlleist Forum] described Bush's remarks... (providing expansion)

Same column, paragraph five, only sentence make read ...Alberto Brause (BR) [Radical Batlleism] described Bush's speech... (providing expansion)